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BIRTH.

On the 29th July, at Hillside, the Peak, the wife of R. M. GRAY, of a son. [1764]

DEATH.

At Beauregard, London Mission, Hongkong, on Friday, 30th July, HELEN MORISON, wife of Rev. JOHN CHALMERS, M.A., LL. D., aged 69 years. [1772]

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 4th July arrived, per M. M. steamer *Saghalien*, on the 3rd August (30 days); and the Canadian mail of the 13th July arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 3rd August (21 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

According to a Havas telegram the Manila rebellion continues in the province of Cavite. A Spanish column, surprised in the Sarmateo mountains, lost two hundred men.

Japan's payments to the Great Northern Telegraph Company are said to amount to between 80,000 and 90,000 yen per month. A direct cable to Hongkong, the *Hyogo News* says, is proposed in order to save this expenditure. Our contemporary will find, however, on inquiry, that difficulties in the way of such a cable exist in the shape of agreements with the cable companies.

In the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements on the 22nd July the Currency Note Issue Bill, providing for the issue of Government notes, was read a second time, the motion being carried by one vote only, which was that of the Governor, who usually abstains from voting. The Bill was opposed by the unofficial members. It is not proposed to discontinue the Bank issues, which will continue to circulate side by side with the Government issue.

Mr. Neubronner, the Treasurer of Gaya, who was carried off by the rebel chief Mat Salleh, has been rescued. Mat Salleh took to flight and escaped into the jungle.

The Supreme Court of Hongkong has been occupied with the trial of Job Witchell, an Inspector of Police, on a charge of accepting bribes in connection with gambling. The accused was found guilty and sentenced to six months' imprisonment without hard labour.

According to the Peking correspondent of a Shanghai contemporary, negotiations are in active progress between Li Hung-chang and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank respecting a fresh loan to the Chinese Government, the amount being £16,000,000, to be taken at 85½ per cent. with 4½ per cent. interest.

A Havas telegram dated Paris, 27th July, states that M. Hanotaux has settled with the Minister for Siam the difficulty relative to the imprisonment of the Cambodians Kadir and Mahbilah, who will be handed over to the French authorities on board the next steamer leaving Bangkok.

The police at Singapore have made a haul of some seventy counterfeit British dollars, made of tin and such-like base metals. The British dollar, says the *Free Press*, is somewhat rough in finish, which rather aids the "smasher." Receivers of the coin should closely scrutinise those they get. A man has been arrested in connection with the counterfeits.

It appears from recent dispatches received from our native correspondent at Peking, that the Censors have been lately turning their attention to the doings of H. E. Tan Chung-lin, Viceroy of the Two Kwang provinces, resulting, finally, in a denunciation by a Censor named Chêng Sze-chan on the charge of senility, loss of will-power, and being made the easy victim of intriguing spirits and evil characters, who "demand and extort bribes in the Viceroy's name from the wealthy merchants and gentry of Canton and elsewhere." The Viceroy Tan's second son, an expectant prefect of Kiangsi, now on a visit to his parent in Canton, is also included in the denunciatory memorial of the Censor. The Emperor has deputed the secret investigation into these charges to H. E. Hsü Chenyi, the Governor of Kwangtung. *N. O. Daily News.*

Mr. Rounseville Wildman, of San Francisco, is to be the new Consul for the U.S. at Hongkong. It is generally understood in San Francisco that Mr. Wildman was appointed through the influence of Senator Stewart, to whom he is related, and that this reward is given the Nevada Senator in return for his support of the pending tariff measures. Mr. Rounseville Wildman was borne at Batavia, New York, in 1862, and was educated in the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima and the Syracuse University. After a wide experience on the newspapers of New York, Chicago, and Kansas City, he became proprietor of the *Idaho Statesman*, a paper published at Boise. He was recognized by President Harrison, who appointed him Consul-General at Singapore, and three years later he filled a similar position at Bremen, Germany. He resigned to take the position of United States World's Fair Commissioner for Borneo and the Straits Settlements at Chicago. At the conclusion of the Exposition he went to California and assumed the editorship of the *Overland Monthly*.—*Japan Mail.*

A telegram has been received at Tokyo, from Formosa, stating that bubonic plague having almost disappeared in Formosa, the Medical Inspection Office was closed on the 16th July.

The *China Gazette* understand that at the last meeting of the Consular Body at Shanghai the letter addressed by the manager of the Bank of China to the Chamber of Commerce came up for discussion in connection with the request that the document should be forwarded to the Corps Diplomatique in Peking. Some of the Consuls opposed the Consular Body interfering in the matter or acting as the agents of that unfortunate institution to enforce its recalcitrant shareholders to pay up their calls, on the ground that there was no diplomatic principle involved in the question, which was merely one of private contract. In the result the letter was sent on to the Ministers without any recommendation or comment.

The Hawaiian steel ship *Helen Brewer*, while on her voyage through the Pescadores Channel, went ashore at 6 p.m. on the 5th July during a thick fog on the same reef as the ill-fated P. & O. steamer *Bokhara*, which was lost on the 10th of October, 1892. The *Helen Brewer* was going at the rate of twelve knots an hour, and the sudden shock was severely felt by the crew. She had on board a cargo of 62,000 cases of kerosene oil from New York and about 900 cases had to be thrown overboard to lighten her up, after which she got off safely the next morning, arriving in Shanghai on the 10th July, after making a record passage of 106 days. Her cargo has been discharged into the Eastern Wharf and Godown, and she went into the Old Dock on the 21st for a survey.—*China Gazette.*

The writer of "Notes on Local Topics" in the *Shanghai Mercury* says:—I was discussing with some friends the other day the relative claims to beauty on the part of the Chinese and the Japanese. As usual opinion was strongly divided. Some were on the side of Sir Edwin Arnold, and praised the Japanese; others favoured the Chinese, and quoted "An Australian in China," who says that some Chinese women he met would be accounted pretty in any capital in Europe. Finally a bet was made that photographs of prettier Chinese could be got than of Japanese, and there for the present the matter rests. Out of it, however, grew another question, viz., whether European women keep their good looks as long in the East as they do at home. Somebody quoted one of Kipling's Indian heroines who laments the fact that the English *Mem-log* are pretty at twenty-five or even at thirty! when Indian women begin to be old hags. The wag of the party declared that it wasn't so much a question of climate as of chemists and milliners. "Given a local Rimmel, a Bond-street, and a Worth," he said, "and our women would never grow old till they died." It was acknowledged that men in the Far East—some men—renewed their youth in a most marvellous way, only to go from youth to old age in a stride as it were. I have known such instances. Men have gone home from China with the bloom of youth upon them to find their contemporaries as old and as fat as Falstaff. I have known them return—old, worn, and wizened. Is it the climate, or what?

LEKIN AT THE OPEN PORTS.

The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce is virtually invited by Mr. BYRON BRENNAN, the British Consul at Canton, to enter upon an agitation with reference to the levy of lekin at the open ports. The invitation is contained in a reply by the Consul to a representation made to him by the Chamber on the subject of the kerosine and match farm at Wuchow. Mr. BRENNAN says:—"As a question of tactics I would venture to doubt the expediency of attacking the procedure in Kwangsi when the same thing on a much larger scale is going on in Kwangtung. A similar tax is farmed by a syndicate in this province; and within the treaty port of Canton itself, where according to the tariff kerosine should reach the consumer after paying a duty of about nine cents per case, a further tax of 30 cents is imposed, and has been imposed for years, without any complaint having been made from any quarter." This is the passage we construe as an invitation to the Chamber to attack this question of lekin, and it must be gratifying to the mercantile community to find that the Consul is prepared to point out what he conceives to be abuses requiring a remedy instead of waiting to have them pointed out to him. The Chamber apparently thinks it necessary to excuse or palliate its past neglect in the matter mentioned, for the Chairman, replying to Mr. BRENNAN, points out that "when the Kwangtung farm was inaugurated there were many equally, and some even more, pressing questions (such as for instance the transit pass question) which at that time it was apparently impossible for Foreign Governments to enforce, and it is therefore less surprising that this particular breach of Treaty rights was not then brought prominently into notice."

The natural corollary to those remarks by the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce is that the other difficulties referred to having been to some extent disposed of this particular one may now be discussed. It is to be feared, however, that attacks upon isolated lekin charges are likely to lead to but a barren result, if indeed they may not do actual harm by courting defeat. The system, it seems to us, should be dealt with comprehensively. Foreign merchant have already expressed their willingness to assent to a very considerable increase in the import duties provided the goods are freed by one payment of all further charges. That is the object to be aimed at, and no opportunity should be lost of pressing upon the Chinese Authorities the desirability of a sweeping fiscal reform. But unless some *quid pro quo* can be given it seems idle to agitate for the abolition of this or that lekin duty, the legality of lekin having unfortunately been admitted by the British Government. When it was proposed by Japan in the peace negotiations at Shimonoseki that goods that had paid import and transit duty should be exempt from lekin and all other charges LI HUNG-CHANG used as his strongest argument against the proposal the references to the subject in the British parliamentary blue books. "There is no Government," said Li, "which more jealously guards its commercial privileges than Great Britain, and her subjects engaged in the Chinese trade have often moved her Ministers to secure relief from the lekin tax, but without success." Lord ELGIN, the Board of Trade, the Foreign Office, and Sir THOMAS WADE were all quoted in support of lekin, and the upshot was that

the Japanese demands upon this point were withdrawn. It is not likely that the British Government will now be found ready to execute a *volte face* on the subject and reverse all the declarations upon which LI HUNG-CHANG relied. But it is contended, we believe, that these declarations only refer to goods proceeding inland and do not cover the long of levy at the open ports, where the goods should be free after the payment of import duty. That might have been the case originally, but long usage has also sanctioned the levy at the ports when the goods have passed out of the foreign merchants' hands, as in the case of kerosine at Canton mentioned by Mr. BRENNAN. The levy has gone on for years, as Mr. BRENNAN says, "without any complaint having been made from any quarter." The objection which has been successfully urged in the case of the Kwangsi kerosine and match farm was, as we understand, not that the levy of lekin was in itself illegal, but that it was farmed out to a trading concern under such terms as to create a commercial monopoly. It is most desirable, in the interests both of the Chinese revenue and foreign trade that lekin should be swept away entirely, but as long as the system remains as a recognised institution it appears hopeless to object to the levy on kerosine at Canton mentioned by Mr. BRENNAN.

THE TRANSIT PASS SYSTEM AND THE WEST RIVER TRADE.

The transit pass system appears to work with remarkable success in the province of Yunnan. From the report of Mr. W. F. SPINNEY, the Commissioner of Customs at Mengtzu, we learn that of the total imports at that place 91 per cent. are sent inland under transit pass. On referring to the returns we find that while in 1890, the first complete year after the opening of the station, the total trade amounted to Tls. 1,104,007, last year it amounted to Tls. 2,476,675, showing an increase of 125 per cent. in seven years. This increase has gone on steadily from year to year, except that the figures for 1896 are smaller than those for 1895, but that is accounted for by the fact that owing to the weather and its effect upon the navigation of the Red River goods that ordinarily would not have arrived until the early part of 1896 arrived at the end of 1895 and went to swell the total of that year's trade. The remarkable and gratifying growth of trade at Mengtzu must be ascribed in a great measure, no doubt, to the smooth working of the transit pass regulations in the province. If there are abuses, they are apparently not of a very serious nature, for no great complaint on this score has been raised at any time during the seven years that Mengtzu has been open. We do not suppose the officials of Yunnan are naturally more honest than those of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, but the squeeze system appears to be less highly developed there, and, moreover, having France to reckon with, the provincial Government may possibly have deemed it prudent to give no cause of offence on this score.

The success which has attended the working of the transit pass system at Mengtzu and the increase of trade it has caused is encouraging for the future of Wuchow, provided the transit pass regulations are faithfully observed there. Mengtzu is difficult of access and serves a comparatively poor region. Wuchow, on the contrary, is accessible to steamers the whole year round and is most favourably situated as a distributing

centre for a very wide region, which, if not so rich as some more favoured parts of China, possesses nevertheless respectable consuming and producing capabilities. Mr. W. NOYES MOREHOUSE, the Acting Commissioner of Customs at Pakhoi, in his report for last year predicted that when the West River was opened a portion of the trade now passing Pakhoi would be diverted to Wuchow. There can be little doubt that the prediction will be fulfilled. The French, however, intend to compete for the traffic, and with that object are extending the Langson railway to Lungchow, in Kwangsi, near the head of the navigable portion of the West River. Hitherto foreign goods have filtered upstream and crossed the border into Tonkin, but now it is designed by the construction of a railway to reverse the traffic, the intention being that goods shall be imported by sea to Haiphong, be transhipped there to the railway, and so conveyed to Lungchow, whence they are to be distributed throughout South China by the West River, its tributaries, and the various land routes. Referring to this railway in his report for last year Mr. H. B. MORSE, Commissioner of Customs at Lungchow, says:—"The agent of the merchant in Yunnan will go to that mart in which he can best and most cheaply fill the whole of his indent; and for the present he will continue to go to Hongkong. In time, after he has become accustomed to accompanying his goods through Tonkin, he may be persuaded that he can do better and buy cheaper in Haiphong; but he will be influenced by these considerations only, and will not ask if the goods are of French, English, or German manufacture. If then, buying elsewhere, he is shut out from Tonkin by a hostile tariff, he will select, or resume, another route to reach his market, and the route by Haiphong and Lungchow will be for him as if it did not exist." The railway may be able to create a considerable traffic for itself; but it will certainly not be able to divert much of the trade that can be conveniently carried by the West River, for, as Mr. MORSE points out, "time is not important in China," and the West River route, though longer, will be cheaper than the railway carriage through Tonkin.

THE GOVERNOR ON THE TRADE OF THE COLONY.

In his report on the Blue Book for 1896 H.E. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON takes an unnecessarily gloomy view of the trade of the year. On the whole 1896 was not a bad year. In the absence of complete and accurate statistics of the trade of the port a commercial summary is necessarily founded largely on rumour and conjecture, and that His Excellency should have been misled is not, perhaps, under the circumstances, altogether surprising. On some points, however, statistics are available, and these do not support the views put forward in the report. As His Excellency says, there has been a decline in the imports into China through the Kowloon Customs station, as compared with those of 1895, of over Tls. 400,000, but it should also be mentioned that with the solitary exception of 1895 the returns are the largest that have ever been shown since the opening of the station. Moreover, the total foreign trade of China, with which this colony is so intimately associated, was not only higher than in 1895, but the highest on record. Again, His Excellency

says "A noticeable feature of the year was the marked displacement of Indian cotton yarns by the Japanese product in the Chinese market." In that His Excellency has been most grossly misled. The annual meeting of the Bombay Millowner's Association was held on the 6th July, and the first remark made by Sir GEORGE CORRON, the Chairman, in his review of the year was this:—"At no time has there been a better demand for our yarns than during the past twelve months." And in the report of the Committee of the Association the following passage occurs:—"The exports of country-made yarn to China and Japan have been the largest on record, exceeding last year by 96,858 bales, or 25.71 per cent., while they are over the largest previous year, 1892, by 66,274 bales, or 16.27 per cent." Turning to the Chinese Customs returns, we find that the import of Indian yarn in 1896 was 1,461,365 piculs of a value of Tls. 28,612,223, as against 1,057,047 piculs of a value of Tls. 19,417,110 in 1895. His Excellency attributes the mistakenly supposed decrease to the unfavourable exchange. On this point the remarks of Sir GEORGE CORRON are of special interest. Referring to the closing of the Mints and the effect of that measure upon trade he said:—"Though the mill industry has had to contend with a double exchange, namely, in the relative value of silver and the rupee and of the rupee and sterling, yet our trade with China, a purely silver-using country, steadily increases, showing, I think, that exchange has much less to do with our exports than has the demand for our goods. John Chinaman to-day with exchange at 164 is as ready to pay his 100 dollars for a bale of yarn as he was when exchange stood at 200 and he paid 75 dollars. I do not mean by this to say that fluctuations in exchange do not interfere at times with business, but what I do wish to maintain is that our exports are governed more by what we have to give and what other people require than by the medium with which we adjust our balances." Returning to Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON'S report, we are next attracted by the remark that "Shipping employed in Eastern waters shared correspondingly in the general depression, freights being very scarce and rates unremunerative." As to that, reference may be made to the reports of the various Steamship Companies, which are not uniformly of a nature calculated to be disagreeable to the shareholders, though some of them are no doubt unfavourable. Perhaps, however, the most remarkable and satisfactory evidence that the trade of the colony in 1896 was not unprofitable is to be found in the readiness with which in the early part of the present year \$50,000 were subscribed for the Indian Famine Fund and a little later nearly \$100,000 for the Diamond Jubilee Fund. Those handsome amounts would not have been realised had the trading of last year resulted in a debit balance. Hongkong will be indeed fortunate if it never has to complain of a worse year than 1896.

The German military instructors at Woosung are to be transferred to Kiangning, on the Yangtze, in October next. It is expected that some difficulty will arise as between the officers and the Chinese Government over the proposed change, as the former have been put to considerable expense in fitting up buildings suitable for European habitation, under the impression that once at Woosung there they would remain until the conclusion of their term of service.—*Mercury.*

THE OUTLOOK FOR SILVER.

The precariousness of the value of silver was again brought home to us by the recent slump in exchange, and though there, has since been a slight recovery it must be admitted that the outlook for the white metal is anything but bright. The only quarter from which a ray of hope comes, and that a very slender one, is America. The silver party made a good fight at the last Presidential election, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that on the next occasion they might be successful. Even so, however, it would be a difficult matter to carry the programme of the party through Congress, and if ultimately silver were remonetised we may rest assured that it would only be at a ratio approximating to the relative market values of the two metals. In the meantime a very serious danger menaces the white metal in India, namely, the prohibition of its importation into that country. The subject was referred to at the recent meeting of the Bombay Millowner's Association, when Sir GEORGE CORRON, who said he was not at first a supporter of the closing of the Mints, expressed the opinion that it would be a mistake to re-open them now, that the object the Government had in view, namely, the establishment of a gold standard with a silver currency, would be achieved, and that it would come much sooner were it not for the imports of silver. But irrespective of the currency question the speaker advocated the imposition of a prohibitive duty on silver, the continued import of which, he said, must dangerously impoverish the country, because the metal served no indispensable purpose, was depreciating in value, and was no investment for the people of India, whether they be rich or poor. Another speaker, the Hon. Mr. N. N. WADIA, said that though the Association by no means approved of the step to regulate the value of the rupee by legislation, it would now be a greater mistake to re-open the Mints. A third speaker, Mr. S. M. MOSES, said that though it would have been advisable to have placed a duty upon silver simultaneously with the closing of the Mints so that the trade would have adjusted itself, having missed that opportunity "any attempt to do so now would dislocate our trade with the Far East, and would inflict a fatal blow on our mill industry." That must be regarded simply as the language of hyperbole. A trade which so easily survived the dislocation caused by the closing of the Mints would not be likely to succumb to the imposition of a duty on the import of silver. Such a measure might, however, restrict the expansion of the trade, as the closing of the Mints may have done, for Mr. MOSES may be correct when he says that had the prices of yarn in China remained the same as they were before the closing of the Mints India's exports would have been doubled or trebled by this time. That, however, is quite problematical, and it seems certain now that India, sooner or later, will have to follow up the closing of the Mints by other legislation detrimental to the interests of the white metal. The *Times of India*, in an article on this subject, says:—"Four years' experience has taught us that, apart from temporary inconvenience during fluctuations, our trade with China has adjusted itself to the new conditions. The Indian millowner has not had to lower his rupee price to the new dollar rates, but the dollar rates have risen to rupee prices. This fact should go far to remove the fear that a further

reduction in the value of silver, following upon the exclusion of the white metal from India, would have a deleterious effect upon our trade with China. It almost seems—though we are reluctant to speak with confidence on the subject—as though the question of the exclusion of silver from India might, after the experience of the last four years, be considered apart from the question of its bearing on the China trade." Speaking and writing of this kind may be taken as a premonition of approaching action, for it is understood that the fixed policy of the Government of India is ultimately to place the currency on a gold basis and that it is only waiting until public opinion is ripe to take steps for the attainment of that object.

PERJURY BY INDIAN WITNESSES.

The sentence of three years' imprisonment with hard labour which was passed upon the Indian artilleryman for committing perjury before the Chief Justice will, we hope, act as a stern warning to the other members of his race who are so prone to give lying evidence. The prisoner was tried by Mr. Justice WISE. Probably no one in Hongkong is better acquainted than Mr. WISE with this most reprehensible class of crime. In his capacity of Puisne Judge Mr. WISE has had an exceptionally large experience with Indians, and he has on several occasions expressed himself in very strong terms when he has been convinced that perjury has been committed. A liar is an enemy to himself and a danger to everybody; a perjurer is a venomous creature who is willing to be swayed this way or that way—to criminally shield a man from lawful punishment or to swear away his life—according to the side to which he loans his lying tongue. Perjury is a crime which is most difficult to prove, and unfortunately in Hongkong it is very rife. We suppose that in most instances money is the motive for giving false evidence, and in this connection we would like to relate an incident which recently occurred in the Supreme Court. Two barristers were defending some Indians who were charged with assault. One barrister had half-a-dozen witnesses to prove that his client was innocent; the other had no witnesses, but he obtained the names of his learned friend's witnesses and asked his man if any one of them could prove that he took no part in the crime. To the barrister's surprise his client ingenuously replied, "No, sir, I have not paid them!" Happily, all the prisoners were convicted. How to check or altogether suppress perjury is a problem which the ablest jurists have not yet solved, and probably it never will be solved. A celebrated judge in India once remarked that the only way you could be certain whether an Indian was telling a lie was by looking at his naked feet. Keen observers will have noticed the Sphinx-like stolidity in the face of an Indian witness, whether he is lying or not, and it might serve a useful purpose to ascertain whether an Indian's toes do really form a reliable indicator of the extent of his veracity. And what about the Chinaman? Would that somebody could find the anatomical barometer he possesses. To lie seems to be part of his nature, but for all that there may be one sensitive point in his body which gives an involuntary twitching when a lie is told. That point is certainly not in his face.

A tattooer has been fined one yen at the Hyogo police station for having tattooed a Hyogo resident, tattooing being now an offence under the Japanese Criminal Code.

SUPREME COURT.

29th July.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CHARGE AGAINST INSPECTOR WITCHELL.

Job Witchell, Inspector in the Hongkong Police Force, was charged as follows:—That at the time of the happening of the matters hereinafter mentioned, Job Witchell was a subordinate officer, to wit, an Inspector in the Police Force of this colony, and that as such Inspector it was his duty to aid in the enforcement of the law relating to gambling houses and to report to the Captain Superintendent of Police all unlawful common gaming houses which he knew to exist in the colony or the existence of which he had reason to suspect, and that he, the said Job Witchell, at Victoria, in this colony, on the 13th day of March, 1897, and on divers other days between the said 13th day of March, 1897, and the 18th day of June, 1897, did unlawfully, wilfully, and corruptly accept by way of bribe divers sums of money from the keepers and managers of certain unlawful common gaming houses situate in Cheung Hing Lane and Wa Lane offered to him by the said keepers and managers to induce him to refrain from the performance of his said duty in respect of the said gaming houses.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General) and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master) defended.

The information was read over to the defendant, who stood at the side of his counsel.

Mr. Robinson said that before the defendant pleaded he had to move that the information be quashed.

His Lordship—One moment, Mr. Robinson. Why is the defendant not standing in the dock?

Mr. Robinson replied that Witchell was charged with a misdemeanour and could sit near his counsel if he wished.

His Lordship—Do you want him near you?

Mr. Robinson—It will be more convenient, my Lord.

His Lordship—The custom is for the accused to go into the dock.

Mr. Robinson—I should like to have the defendant near me.

His Lordship—But you are instructed?

Mr. Robinson—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—If you wish to have him near you you are entitled to do so, but I think it is always better for counsel not to have the defendant near him.

Mr. Robinson thereupon said he would not object to the defendant being placed in the dock.

Defendant then entered the dock.

Mr. Robinson said he had two objections to make. The information was bad for want of particularity; it was too general. In the first place he submitted, as a matter of comparatively small moment, that with regard to the gaming houses said to be situated in Cheung Hing Street and Wa Lane, it was not expressly alleged that either of the places was in Victoria in the colony of Hongkong or within the jurisdiction. It was alleged in the information that it was the defendant's duty to report to the Captain Superintendent of Police all unlawful gaming houses which he knew to exist in the colony and the existence of which he had reason to suspect and that Job Witchell, at Victoria in the colony, accepted by way of bribe divers sums of money from the keepers of certain unlawful gaming houses situated in Cheung Hing Street and Wa Lane. Those streets of course might be anywhere. The count did not show that the offence was in respect of any place over which the Court had jurisdiction. The second objection was that the count was bad of duplicity inasmuch as there was a want of particularity. It alleged that contrary to his duty the defendant, on the 13th March, 1897, accepted by way of bribe divers sums of money from the keepers and managers of certain unlawful gaming houses situated in Cheung Hing Lane and Wa Lane. Counsel submitted that that was bad of

duplicity. The defendant did not know of all the charges he was to meet and if the jury were to return a verdict of guilty against him generally it would be quite uncertain as to which of the charges they found him guilty of. Neither the house nor the keepers were specified. Counsel referred to Archbold, 21st edition, page 58, and to 14 Cox, 499. It had been ruled that it was not sufficient to charge a defendant generally with having committed an offence, but all the facts and circumstances constituting the offence must be set forth. The indictment must not be double, and counsel submitted that the present information was double for want of particularity. Not more than one offence could be charged in one count, but here there was only one count and several offences were charged.

His Lordship said that supposing a man made a single agreement to take bribes in respect of more than one place; was not that one transaction—one single bribe—although it might refer to different houses? How could that be broken up?

Mr. Robinson replied that there was nothing like that stated in the information. There were no particulars in the information in respect to the names of the keepers or the numbers of the houses. Of course if counsel's contention was upheld there would be an end to the information, but with regard to amendment, the depositions showed that the case was really brought in respect of one house and counsel had no objection if the information was amended by the name of the house at No. 2 Wa Lane being put in. Of course it was possible for the prosecution to put their cases in separate counts, but if that were done counsel would have to ask for an adjournment as he had not had notice of any other house but No. 2, Wa Lane and he would have to consider his position.

Mr. Francis submitted that the count was a perfectly good one under the provisions of our local Ordinance, which differed considerably from the provisions of the law with reference to indictments in courts in England. The Ordinance regulating the subject is 3 of 1865 as amended by 2 of 1869. According to section 6 the Chief Justice could order further particulars to be delivered if he deemed it expedient to do so. The result of combining the effect of these two Ordinances was that it had always been deemed sufficient to allege in the broadest terms the nature of the offence charged, as murder, or manslaughter, or stealing, without going into great particularity as to names, places, dates, and weapons. If the defendant or his advisers had been in any real difficulty and wanted to be made acquainted with the names of the persons or the particular dates they had ample time to apply for such particulars. In this case there had been a preliminary inquiry in the Police Court and the names and the localities of at least two of the gambling houses were referred to in those proceedings. Counsel submitted that the information was perfectly good and complete. His Lordship had already answered the second objection by the question put to Mr. Robinson. It did not necessarily follow from the wording of the information that two separate offences were charged. It might be that there was in fact one acceptance and one transaction although it had reference to different houses, and therefore the count was not double. It did not charge two separate and distinct offences in respect of which two separate and distinct punishments would be necessary to be inflicted or on which two separate and distinct verdicts would have to be given.

In answer to his Lordship Mr. Francis admitted that it would have been better if the locality of the streets had been mentioned.

Mr. Robinson replied and said that his friend had not dealt with the matter of particularity. As he had said, he was quite willing for an amendment to be made. He thought section 6 threw no burden whatever upon the defendant or his advisers.

His Lordship, in regard to the first objection, directed that the information be amended by stating that Cheung Hing Street and Wa Lane were situated in Victoria in the colony of Hongkong. The second point was that the information was bad for duplicity inasmuch as the charge was in respect of two sets of gaming houses in Cheung Hing Street and Wa Lane. That objection, if it was of any validity, might be carried further by saying that there was

nothing to show that there might not be a number of houses in Cheung Hing Street and a number of houses in Wa Lane; but he did not think the objection could prevail because it seemed to him that it might appear on the evidence that the transaction was a single one and complete in itself. Under those circumstances it would certainly be inconvenient to break up what was really one offence into two separate offences. If in the course of the trial it appeared that the takings and places were separate then his Lordship would put the prosecution upon its selection to say which of the places it would proceed on. He could not say that the information was double. The last objection was that the information was too general and that the Court ought to quash it on the ground that it was not sufficiently clear. With regard to that his Lordship thought that the information should have set forth the particulars of the taking of the bribes somewhat more fully. In accordance with the rules which regulated the framing of informations and indictments the defendant was entitled to more precise information, and by the power conferred by section 6 his Lordship directed that the defendant be furnished with the names of the keepers and managers of the common gaming houses from whom the bribes were alleged to have been received and also with the numbers of the gaming houses in the several streets. He understood Mr. Robinson would agree if the particulars were furnished in the course of the trial.

Mr. Robinson said he left himself entirely in his Lordship's hands.

Defendant was then called upon to plead and he pleaded not guilty.

The following special jury was called—Messrs. R. Marten, W. H. Potts, A. Findlay Smith, T. I. Rose, St. C. Michaelsen, W. Mitchell, and F. G. Collins.

Mr. Francis then opened the case for the Crown. He said he appeared with the Attorney-General who, though unable to appear just then, would be present later on in the case. Everyone knew that among the vices possessed by the Chinese the one that had given the greatest trouble in connection with the government of this colony had been their devotion to the vice of gambling, and since the early history of this colony efforts have been made in different forms to put down the vice of gambling. Gambling, that is, the keeping open of gaming houses for the profit of individuals who are occupiers or owners of these houses, was in the nature of a business and it was generally conducted as a business, going on continuously. From the keeping of these public or common gambling houses there had always arisen in the history of the colony occasions on which it had been found that the managers and owners of the gambling businesses had, as it were, got the better of the Government and of the law by adopting underhand methods and corrupting the police force to prevent the law from being put into effect. Probably the jury would all know that at one time in the history of the colony the operations of the police were so great—

Mr. Robinson, interrupting, said his friend was going outside the case by introducing the history of the colony.

His Lordship said he thought it was not usual for counsel to be interrupted in his opening statement when facts of general knowledge were given.

Mr. Robinson said it might be general knowledge, but he did not know it.

Mr. Francis, continuing, said that gambling had taken such a position and the Force had become so corrupted that one Governor thought it advisable that gambling should be licensed in the colony. That experiment was tried and to a certain extent was fairly successful, but it was put an end to by influence from England. With a view to preventing as far as possible the corruption of the Police Force the general body of police was withdrawn from all connection with gambling—the suppression of gambling houses—and the duty of looking after gambling houses was entrusted to high officers in the colony who were specially paid for the purpose. That system did not work and other alterations were made, first in the law and secondly in the procedure, and ultimately the suppression of gambling in the colony came to be dealt with in the way in

which it was at present. The primary duty of suppressing gambling was entrusted to the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Inspectors of Police in their respective districts, and even they were placed under certain limitations. Certain abuses had occurred in the past in connection with gambling houses and it was thought advisable to make as much limitation as possible. At the same time an alteration was made in the law with reference to gambling, and whereas public gambling was the only offence which had been previously recognised—that is, the keeping open of houses for the purpose of public gambling—the law was altered and so it was no longer the keeping open of a house for public gambling which constituted the offence. The offence derived its character from the nature of the game carried on. As the law now stood all houses open to the public were subject to the law, providing there was one person who had a greater advantage than any other. Counsel then explained the way the Inspectors were delegated to various divisions, saying it was the duty of each Inspector to report gambling houses, but he could not enter them. Inspector Witchell had been attached to the No. 1 section since August, 1896. During the greater portion of this year the Government and the Captain Superintendent of Police were under the impression that common gaming houses in the colony had been to a very considerable extent, if not entirely, suppressed and that with the exception of what might be called the ordinary every-day gaming in coolie houses there was no public gambling in the colony. The house in East Street which was raided was not in itself a gaming house but the head-quarters of a syndicate. In that house the Captain Superintendent of Police found, on the 21st June, a quantity of money, a quantity of jewellery, and also almost a complete set of books showing the transactions of this gambling syndicate or partnership from the 1st January, 1896, to the present day.

Mr. Robinson asked his Lordship to make a note of that statement.

His Lordship said he had taken a mental note. It was not usual to take a written note of counsel's opening speech.

Mr. Francis, continuing, said the discovery resulted in an immediate and close investigation into the circumstances which appeared to be disclosed by the books, and counsel thought the jury would be satisfied after hearing the evidence that it was abundantly clear that from at least January, 1896, to the 19th June two gambling houses, one in Wa Lane, and one in Cheung Hing Street, both of them being in the neighbourhood of Taipingshan, had been carrying on a very extensive business with the greatest impunity. He did not say they were carrying on a continuous business, but it was so far continuous that the houses were closed only for short periods. The jury would understand the difficulty there was to say in what particular houses in these two streets the gambling was carried on as the partnership occupied several houses in the streets, and from time to time the gambling was shifted from one house to another, but it was known generally in what houses this shifting business was carried on. As the result of the information obtained from the books and of the inquiries which followed on that discovery it became apparent to the Government that there was a very serious amount of corruption among the police force generally, that a considerable number of these subordinate officers of the police—European Inspectors—were habitually in receipt of bribes from these two houses, and that the whole, or nearly the whole of the Chinese detective force were in the same condition.

Mr. Robinson here objected to that statement as it would prejudice the prisoner.

His Lordship thought that such a statement might prejudice the prisoner.

Mr. Francis said it was almost impossible to state the matter fully without making such statements. They were fairly relevant facts; facts necessary for explanation were relevant.

His Lordship thought Mr. Francis ought not to embarrass the case.

Mr. Francis, continuing, said that as the result of these discoveries three facts supervened. A certain number of Chinese detectives disappeared from the colony; a certain number of

Chinese detectives who remained in the colony had been banished; and a certain number of Inspectors had been suspended from duty. It became evidence, and it would be shown in evidence, that the method adopted for the corruption of the police was one which rendered proof of any particular evidence extremely difficult. Those who received bribes never apparently brought themselves into contact with the persons who paid those bribes and in nearly every case the money passed through the hands of two persons, always Chinese, intermediate between the person who was paying and the person who was receiving. The Government had been fortunate in this case to obtain the evidence of intermediaries through whose hands the money passed. The case as far as Witchell was concerned was this. He became aware in the course of his general duties as an Inspector attached to the Central Station of the existence of the gambling house in Wa Lane. There were not at that time any gambling houses of importance in his own district. He sent for a man called Cheng On, a man who some six years ago had been a detective in the police force and who was at that time and was until recently the principal excise officer under the Opium Farmer. Witchell told him that when patrolling about the colony he became aware of the existence of this particular gambling house in Wa Lane. He complained that while others were getting money out of gambling houses he was getting nothing. He explained to the man that he had a large family, that his expenses were considerable, that he would be glad to have something, and that although this particular house in Wa Lane was not in his district he knew of its existence and Mr. May would be very glad to have a report to that effect from him. Cheng On would give the whole of this conversation. As the result of this conversation Cheng On went to the headquarters of the partnership in East Street and told the man in charge what Witchell had stated to him. Sam Yeen, who was the man seen by Cheng On, offered to pay Witchell \$1 a day. Cheng On told this to Witchell, who said he was perfectly willing to accept the amount. This fact was communicated to Sam Yeen and from then to the time the gambling house was shut up on the 19th July payment at that rate was made in respect of that house. The money was not paid direct to Cheng On; it was paid day by day to a man called Tung Kum, who kept a clothier's shop close to the entrance of Wa Lane and close also to East Street. Tung Kum not only received the money for the defendant but he also received other very considerable sums of money. The money was paid by the gambling house keeper day by day in subsidiary coins to Tung Kum. Tung Kum paid every five days to Cheng On and every seven days Cheng On paid the money to the defendant. If the jury thought the evidence was satisfactory they would have clear evidence that the defendant was aware of the existence of at least one gambling house in Wa Lane, that at his request an application was made to the keeper for hush-money, that the keeper of the gambling house or the person responsible for the management of affairs consented to make a payment at the rate of \$1 or \$1.10 a day—10 cents going to the intermediary—that the money was paid to Tung Kum and that Tung Kum paid that particular amount to Cheng On every five days, and that Cheng On made payments which he fixed at \$12.60 every week to Inspector Witchell. The witnesses were the Captain Superintendent of Police, Cheng On, Tung Kum, and Sam Yeen. Sam Yeen was the person arrested and convicted as being the keeper of the gaming house at No. 2, Wa Lane and he was now serving a term of nine months' imprisonment for the offence to which, during the case, he pleaded guilty. The jury would understand that these Chinese witnesses were not put forward as being absolutely pure in their actions. Sam Yeen had been promised that if he made a clean breast of it the Government would take his case into consideration and they held out a hope to him. Cheng On was arrested under a banishment warrant and he is subject to a banishment order at this moment, but hope had also been held out to him if he made a clean breast of the affair, and Tung Kum, who was also arrested, had been promised hope if he would make a clean breast of the matter. The circum-

stances under which the witnesses were giving their evidence would undoubtedly be pressed upon the jury in the strongest possible manner by the counsel for the defence, and it might be urged that Chinese evidence was at all times most unreliable and that the evidence of men of this particular class, who were themselves involved in this business, must be received with even greater suspicion than the ordinary Chinese evidence. Possibly it might be urged that no European should be convicted on Chinese evidence or evidence of this kind. But the jury had to remember that while it was their duty to give the defendant the benefit of every doubt that might reasonably arise on the evidence or with reference to the witnesses themselves, they also had a duty to the public and to themselves. It was the jury's duty to do their part in assisting in the administration and enforcement of the law. Counsel asked them to bear in mind that in such a case as this or in any case of this class it would be utterly impossible for the Government under any circumstances to obtain a conviction against any police officer or any member of the Government service for accepting a bribe or acting corruptly in office if the evidence of Chinese and the evidence of persons acting as intermediaries in the prosecution was to be rejected. Chinese evidence of course always came before a jury with a certain amount of suspicion attached to it, and Chinese evidence of this particular class was more suspicious than ordinarily. Counsel was sure that the jury would examine the evidence more carefully, listen to it more attentively, weigh it more accurately, and decide its intrinsic worth. The jury had a serious and responsible duty to perform and they would no doubt carefully watch the witnesses and listen to their evidence and decide whether the evidence was of itself clear, satisfactory, and consistent. Counsel added that the witnesses had been in custody from a very early date. They had been kept strictly apart and they had had no communication whatever with each other. Their statements had been taken down by the Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. Dennys, and counsel himself, Mr. Brewin acting as interpreter.

Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, was then called and examined by the Attorney-General. He gave evidence of the system in vogue for the suppression of gambling and detailed the work of the Inspectors. He also spoke of a letter he received some time ago. The writer offered to take him to a house in Jervois Street from which he would be able to see gambling going on in Kwai Wa Lane in the daytime. Witness communicated the contents of this letter to Inspector Witchell.

Defendant—It is gross perjury, my Lord.

His Lordship told defendant not to interrupt. If he wished to communicate with his counsel he could do so.

Defendant—Excuse me for using such an expression, my Lord.

Witness then spoke of raiding the house in East Street and finding money, jewellery, and books of account.

Mr. Robinson demanded the production of the books.

The Attorney-General said Mr. Robinson could see the books if he wished.

Mr. Robinson applied for leave to inspect the books and his Lordship granted the application providing that an officer of the court was present during the inspection.

Witness then produced the following list of the contents of the various books:—

1.—A list containing 35 names on one side with sums of money under them, totalling from \$101.25 to \$104.35; on the other 45 names with sums of money under them (those of men who received money every five days), totalling \$44.13 to \$45.50. Grand total, about \$145.00.

2.—Contains memoranda of receipts and expenditure at various dates between 24th of 10th moon and 26th of 1st moon. (No year).

3.—Names of persons with sums of money under them (two dates, no month); the 1st, 7 names, \$48.10; the 2nd, 9 names, \$58.40.

4.—A list of 18 articles pawned (and some redeemed) between 24th of 7th moon and 4th of 8th moon. (No year). Total value, \$134.00.

5.—Similar in substance and arrangement to No. 1. Total of sums of money on it, \$146.90 to \$149.70.

6.—A signed receipt for rent of 2nd floor 198, Hollywood Road, for 3rd and 4th moons, \$16.00; occupied by Yik Kei. Dated 9th day, 5th moon, 23rd Kwangsui (1897).

7.—Apparently a rough balance sheet of receipts and expenditure up to the 11th day (no month given). Total, \$9,456.36. Total, \$9,445.50. Loss, \$10.86.

8.—On one side 36 names with numbers under them. On the other 10 names with sums of money under them. Two short memoranda of expenditure.

9.—Similar in substance and arrangement to Nos. 1 and 5. Total of sums of money on it, \$150.25.

10.—Memorandum regarding some Chinese constables who have joined the force, left, or "gone abroad."

11.—List of 8 articles of jewellery.

12.—A long list of persons with sums of money against their names, and the names of the persons to whom the money was actually paid.

13.—An account book. Commences on the 29th of the 11th moon (no year given) and goes down to the 28th of the 3rd moon. There is one entry for each day—the balance in favour of or against the house. On the 28th of the moon a balance of the entries for the preceding month is struck. On 28th of 3rd moon there is a credit balance of \$2,381.60.

14.—Similar to the above. Commences on the 29th of the 3rd moon and goes down to the 17th of the 6th moon. (No year given). Final balance. Credit, \$1,788.00.

15.—Similar to the above. Commences on 23rd of 7th moon Peng year (1896), and goes down to the 4th of the 5th moon Teng year (1897). Final balance: debit, Tls. 4,973.254 or \$6,907.30.

16.—Similar to the above. Commences on the 5th of the 5th moon Teng year (1897) and goes down to the 19th of 5th moon. No balance struck.

17.—List of articles pledged (some redeemed). Dates, but not in order. Value of articles pledged, \$787.00. Value of articles redeemed, \$121.00.

18.—List of articles pledged (some redeemed) between the 21st of the 9th moon (1896?) to 18th of 5th moon, 1897.

19.—List of articles pledged. Commences on 17th of the 4th moon, 1895. The dates are not in order. Also contains an account of two employes with the firm.

20.—This contains (1) The daily accounts for the 13th, 14th, and 15th of the 11th moon, and for the 5th moon from the 5th to 19th day. These accounts give the receipts and expenditure for the day and on the back are noted down particulars of the expenditure of the gambling house. With each account is a list of the articles received as pledges. (2) An account of the share of a man holding a share of $\frac{1}{30}$ th in the business. From the 7th moon to the 4th moon (No year). (3) A pawn ticket. (4) Nine prescriptions. (5) A list of 12 names with sums of money against them: total, \$62.70. Dated 13th of 11th moon. (6) Four pieces of paper, on two of which are memoranda of accounts.

In answer to further questions by the Attorney-General witness said that to him the books did not show the nature of the establishment, but he did not know whether the Chinese could tell. The establishment appeared to have made money last year and lost money this year, as at the time of closing they had a large debit balance. He could not tell whether the books related to Wa Lane or East Street. Witness then spoke to the entries relating to money paid to "No. 12." In regard to Sam Yeen's statements he had been able to test the accuracy of them in many cases. Tung Kum appeared to have been general agent and distributor of money. The first part of the book produced contained the names of police officers and the latter part contained the names of persons in other departments and also of miscellaneous persons. Tung Kum and Cheng On were not at first willing to make their statements to witness; before they did make them they were allowed to see their legal advisers. Messrs. Deacon and Hastings were the advisers for Cheng On and Mr. Reece was legal adviser for Tung Kum. Tung Kum and Cheng On were arrested on the 12th inst. and they were placed in separate cells.

His Lordship—On what ground were they arrested?

Witness—On banishment warrants issued under section 19 of the Gambling Ordinance.

Cross-examined by Mr. Robinson—The defendant had been in the Force fifteen years. He came from Bristol. His character was good. Witness was then questioned about the police rules in regard to gambling houses.

Mr. Robinson—Have you heard that watchmen not only watch premises but shadow the Inspectors and watch them to bed?

Witness—I have heard that they watch the Inspectors. I should be more correct if I said that I have heard they watch some of the Inspectors.

Cheng On said that he did not see a warrant. Is that true?—I showed Cheng On a warrant and his legal adviser inspected it.

What he said is absolutely false, then?—I do not think it is false.

Was the warrant also shown to Tung Kum?—Yes.

Were any terms of pardon held out to Cheng On?—I have not told him anything.

Perhaps you told his solicitor?—I do not know anything about what his solicitor told him.

Have you held out any inducement to Cheng On or to his solicitor?—No, not before he made his statement.

What was the last time you saw Cheng On for the purpose of examining him?—Yesterday, I think.

He was under a long examination yesterday?—Not a long examination.

By the Crown Solicitor or by yourself or by whom?—By Mr. Francis.

On what date was any inducement held out to Cheng On that it would be better for him to turn Queen's evidence?—There was no inducement held out to him.

What do you understand by inducement?—He was not promised anything and he was not threatened in any way.

Was he given to understand anything?—Not by me.

By whom?—I do not know.

By Mr. Francis?—No.

By anyone?—I do not know.

Was anyone in connection with Cheng On told that it would be better if Cheng On made a clean breast of it?—No.

May I take it from you on oath that nothing has taken place to give Cheng On any hope that if he turned Queen's evidence it would be better for him?—No, I will not say that. When Cheng On was arrested he was told that if he told the truth about what he knew of this matter the Government would take his case into consideration.

You do not think that amounts to anything like an inducement to turn Queen's evidence?—No, I do not think so.

He being under punishment at the time?—I do not think it is a direct inducement.

Mr. Robinson—I did not say a direct inducement; I said inducement.

His Lordship—Of course we can judge ourselves of the inducement.

Mr. Robinson—I want the judgment of the witness. I think he is very much inclined to chop logic. He is sworn to tell the truth and the whole truth.

His Lordship—If there is more behind get it out of him, but if it rests here we can judge ourselves.

Mr. Robinson (to witness)—With regard to Tung Kum, when he was arrested did anything of the sort take place?

Witness—Yes, the same thing. He was told that if he told the truth the Government would take his case into consideration.

Was he told who was to be the judge of the truth?—He was not told.

Do you remember three detectives, whom Mr. Reece represented, being arrested under banishment warrants with respect to this case?—Yes.

Were they told that if they would tell the truth they would not be punished?—Yes, they were.

And they said they knew nothing against the men who have been suspended and nothing against Witchell?—No, they did not.

What did they say?—If you will ask me separately in regard to each man I will tell you about them, but I cannot lump them all together.

Did any of them give any information to incriminate?—No.

To incriminate Witchell?—No.

Through whom was the communication that they would be not punished made?—Through Mr. Ewens's interpreter.

Oh, you spoke to Mr. Ewens's clerk and told him to tell them?—Yes.

These men were banished?—Yes.

With regard to Sam Yeen—he is in a different position; he is a convicted man,—what hope was held out to him?—He was told that if he would make a full disclosure his case would be taken into consideration by the Government if he desired any mitigation of his sentence.

He was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment?—Yes.

In answer to further questions witness said that he denied he was exceeding his powers in committing the men arrested under banishment warrants to Victoria Gaol. One of the men was an opium smoker. He was not told that if he would make his statement first he could get his opium. He got opium the second day after his admission to gaol.

At this point the Court adjourned.

30th July.

Before the case proceeded Mr. Robinson said that the gentleman who was giving the bond wished to go away and counsel asked the leave of the court to extend the bond until the conclusion of the Sessions.

The Attorney-General offered no objection, but he remarked that the application implied that his learned friend was going to occupy the court a great number of days.

Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, was then called for further examination. On entering the witness box he said—My Lord, I notice in the newspaper report this morning of my evidence the following question—

His Lordship—Are we concerned with that?

Witness—I wish to make a slight correction.

His Lordship—Is it something you stated yourself that is not quite accurate or is the newspaper report inaccurate?

Witness—I think there was something in the mind of the learned counsel who put the question to me that I did not take exactly as being in his mind. The question was—"Was anyone in connection with Cheng On told that it would be better if Cheng On made a clean breast of it?" I took that to mean somebody connected with Cheng On—some of his family relations or Chinese friends—and I said "No." It occurs to me that possibly the learned counsel may have referred to Cheng On's solicitor, in which case the answer would be incorrect, for I did say to Cheng On's solicitor that the best way to help his client would be by telling his client to make a clean breast of it. The same in regard to Tung Kum. I did not make any promise or make any definite reference. I simply said to their representative, in the words of the learned counsel, that it would be better to tell the truth.

Mr. Robinson (cross-examining)—Who is No. 12?

Witness—No. 12 is Inspector Witchell.

I repeat the question; who is No. 12?—No. 12 is Inspector Witchell.

His Lordship—The witness has already stated that the Chinese called him that. You cannot go beyond that. He said, "I know the Chinese call him No. 12." The jury's time is very valuable and you must really try to get the trial over in a reasonable time.

Mr. Robinson—I think your Lordship will see that it is Mr. May who is taking up the time. (To witness.) Who is No. 12?

His Lordship (To witness)—In your judgment who is No. 12?

Mr. Robinson—Not in his judgment.

His Lordship—As far as you know who is No. 12?

Mr. Robinson—I have not asked him in connection with this case. I say, who is No. 12?

His Lordship—We are not dealing with any other case but this case.

Mr. Robinson—If your Lordship pleases. Who is No. 12?

Witness—Inspector Witchell.

Inspector Witchell was No. 12. Who is No. 12?

His Lordship—Why can't you put the question in a different way?

Witness—Because I want to see how the witness speaks. Your Lordship is not so au fait

with the numbers of constables as Mr. May. (To witness.) Who is No. 12?

Witness—If you refer to P. C. No. 12, there may be a constable with that number, but I cannot give his name. He would be referred to as P. C. No. 12, or if he is a sergeant, P. S. No. 12.

Mr. Robinson—I asked you who is No. 12 and now you are volunteering the statement that gamblers would call him No. 12.

Mr. Francis—He has not said anything about gamblers.

His Lordship—He has already stated that so far as this case is concerned the defendant was called No. 12 by the Chinese.

Mr. Robinson—There is more than one No. 12. The Inspector's number was 12 and if you see No. 12 in the book it must be the defendant?

Witness—Yes.

Is there not another No. 12 at the present moment in the colony?—Yes.

A man of the name of Sullivan?—I think it is Sullivan.

Attached to the Central District?—Yes.

How long has he been here?—He has been here about eighteen months.

That is during the whole period of this gambling house?—Yes.

As a matter of fact as an Inspector is raised he ceases to carry a number and the number is given to a new man?—Yes.

Some of the numbers have been borne time after time by different men?—Yes.

In regard to these books, when you found them in No. 3, East Street, was that the first time you had been in East Street?—Yes.

When you got there you found six men, I think?—There were more than six men.

Did you receive a communication about East Street?—Yes.

From a barrister in the colony?—Yes.

A communication from Mr. Francis, Q.C.?—Yes.

Did he tell you who his informer was?—No.

Did he say that some man had been to him?

—He did not say where he got his information.

Mr. Francis only told you he was informed?—Yes.

You had never been into No. 3, East Street; have you even been into East Street?—Yes.

You had never been in this house?—I may have been at the time of the plague.

You did very good service then, we all know; but apart from that you have no acquaintance with East Street?—No.

In this case the warrant was signed by yourself in your character of Justice of the Peace?—Yes.

Did you issue the warrant to Inspector Mackie?—It was not issued to anybody in particular.

To all or any constables, and you handed it to Inspector Mackie?—Yes.

And you went with him?—Yes.

In answer to further questions witness said the only information upon which he issued the warrant was the information he obtained from Mr. Francis.

Mr. A. W. Brewin was here called to put in a translation of one of the books. He pointed out the entries referring to No. 12 and also an entry "New 43, \$2." There was also an entry "43, \$5."

In answer to his Lordship, Mr. Brewin said there were no dates against the items respecting the money paid to Cheng On. All the items followed in regular sequence.

Hon. F. H. May then went into the witness box again and his cross-examination was proceeded with.

Mr. Robinson—Have you spoken to Cheng On since yesterday?

Witness—No.

Since the sitting of the Court yesterday?—Yes.

What did you speak to him about?—I asked him whether it was 1 or 3, Cheung Hing Street where the gambling was carried on.

You were speaking with reference to this case?—Yes.

Was any other European with you at the time?—Yes, Mr. Denny.

What is Acting Inspector Hall's number?—91.

In this document 91 is written down and opposite is the figure 11?—Yes.

As regards 91, he has not been suspended?—No.

Am I right in saying that Acting Inspector Hall has been for the last 18 months at Shaukiwan?—I do not know how long he has been there. He has been there since I came back, I believe. I came back in October last year.

As a matter of fact Acting Inspector Hall has been at Shaukiwan since last October and he was there when you returned?—Yes.

What was Inspector Mann's number?—89.

What is his station?—Wanchai.

How long has he been there?—He has been there since I came back from leave; how long before I do not know.

Opposite 89 in this list is written \$1.10?—Yes.

He has not been suspended?—No.

Has either of those two men anything whatsoever to do with the gambling section No. 2, Central District?—No.

Can you explain how their names got into this list?—Before they were transferred they were doing duty in the Central District.

I will ask you to get the dates of their respective appointments to their several districts. Now with regard to Inspector Mann perhaps you will have a little more knowledge. When did Inspector Mann return from leave?—I cannot answer that accurately. I was on leave myself.

Do you know that he returned in June, 1896, and that he was appointed to Wanchai?—I do not know what date he returned.

You know that he was on leave whilst you were on leave?—Yes.

You can ascertain when he returned from leave?—Yes.

And when he returned to Wanchai?—Yes.

Will you read the entries against 89 and 91?—"91" and underneath is put "11." "89, \$1.10;" underneath is written "Tung."

There are a large number of names of Chinese detectives in that book?—Yes.

I think sixteen entries have been marked by somebody?—Yes.

Will you read out those sixteen entries?—I cannot read them correctly because I cannot read grass writing very well. The first entry does not refer to a detective; \$4 is against the name. The next might be Kwan, \$2.

Is he a detective as far as you know?—There is a man called Kwan Shing, a detective. It may refer to him.

Has he been banished?—Yes.

No. 3 is Tung?—Yes.

What amount?—\$2.

No. 4 is Chu Lun?—Yes, a detective.

You think he is a detective?—Chu Lun, I know, is a detective.

No. 5 is Cheng Tai, 8?—Yes. He is a detective. No. 6 is Hu Hing, 8; No. 7, Tam Shing, 7; 8, Mee Chung.

Is he a detective?—I am not sure. He is a policeman.

What is the number written against him?—8.

What is No. 9, Leung Lai?—I cannot read that; 5 is the amount.

Chu Tsoi is next?

His Lordship (to Mr. Robinson)—Does not all that appear in the translation you are now reading? Why do you take Mr. May through it all? What is the object?

Mr. Robinson—Because Mr. May has said that one end of the document consisted mainly of the names of police. Now I am pointing out that large sums were being paid to men some of whom, he tells us, are detectives.

His Lordship pointed out that when Mr. Francis, in his opening address, said that documents showed a large amount of corruption among the officers of the Police Force Mr. Robinson objected, and now Mr. Robinson was going over to same ground.

Mr. Robinson—I am dealing with the corruption alleged at the present moment and how it affects the Chinese Police Force.

His Lordship—I do not think you can go into the general question. I am not trying the whole Police Force here; I am trying the defendant.

Mr. Robinson—Here are names, some of whom the witness says are detectives, to whom large sums have been passed, and I shall found an argument on that fact.

His Lordship—You can put a definite question to Mr. May to show that this list is not

correct or otherwise, but do not go through the list as it stands.

Mr. Robinson—I want information of identity of these people.

His Lordship—What is the good of that? Suppose you establish—

Mr. Robinson—I do not wish to address an argument to the Court at this stage, but I will say that it is obviously unnecessary to pay bribes to Europeans when the houses have all the natives in their pay. They do not want to travel outside that in order to secure their ends.

Witness—I can tell you how many Chinese police are on the list.

His Lordship (to Mr. Robinson)—I am only anxious for the case to be kept within reasonable limits.

Mr. Robinson (to witness)—Can you tell me how many Chinese detectives, or how many members of the Chinese force are in the book?

Witness—61.

61 are mentioned as being in the pay of the gambling houses?—Yes.

His Lordship—61 altogether?—So far as I have been able to identify.

61 members of the Police Force?—The Chinese Police Force.

Mr. Robinson—With regard to these men there are larger figures against their names than \$1.10 or \$1 which is put opposite No. 12?—There are larger sums.

In looking through this translation I saw a Government firm or something like that mentioned.—Government House.

Do you know whether that refers to His Excellency's A.D.C. or to the Secretary to His Excellency, perhaps?—No.

You do not know to whom it refers?—"Government House, \$3."—No it is not \$3.

3?—Yes.

Does the name of any member of the Legislative Council appear?—No.

You might (handing a document) look at that entry. Does there not appear in that translation the name of a member of the Legislative Council?—It might be.

Mr. Robinson—"Ho Kai, \$1.50."

His Lordship—Suppose Ho Kai has taken \$1.50?

Mr. Robinson—I do not suppose he has.

His Lordship—Well, suppose he has. Can we try that issue?

Mr. Robinson—No, my Lord.

His Lordship—Well, I must ask you—

Mr. Robinson—I have an argument in my breast—

His Lordship—I don't care a penny whether Dr. Ho Kai took the money or not. I do not believe for a moment he did; but suppose he did.

Mr. Robinson—It shows that this list cannot be depended upon.

His Lordship—We cannot try that issue. It might be Dr. Ho Kai or it might be another Ho Kai.

Mr. Robinson then resumed his seat.

His Lordship (to Witness)—Does it say what Ho Kai it is?—No, my Lord, it does not.

The Attorney-General—From information you have received you know it is not Dr. Ho Kai?—I know it was not Dr. Ho Kai.

His Lordship—Do not let us go into the matter any more.

In answer to further questions by the Attorney-General as to the entries "43" and "New 43," witness said that there was an officer at present in the Force who used to wear the number 43 and there was now another officer who carried the number 43.

His Lordship—What were the relations between you and the defendant? Were they of a friendly character or otherwise?

Witness—Very friendly.

Since he has been an Inspector in the Force?—Yes.

And I think you said he has been an efficient and zealous officer?—I should say he is one of the most zealous officers in the Force.

I remember there was an important fire case in which he distinguished himself by his intelligence and zeal.—I was not here at the time, my Lord. When I left I gave instructions that he should be made an Inspector. [In answering this question Mr. May appeared to be almost overcome with emotion. He stopped in the middle of the sentence and apparently had great difficulty in continuing.]

You have not had any difficulty or trouble with him—any quarrel or breach?—Not in the least, my Lord.

Mr. Robinson asked permission to put another question. In reply witness said that Sam Yeen escaped custody in the house in East Street. He went out for a key and did not return. Witness waited half an hour and then broke open a box in the room and found the books.

Mr. Robinson—And you called upon Inspector Stanton to find him?

Witness—Yes.

And he was found the same night?—Yes. We turned out all the detective staff to find him.

You gave your orders to Inspector Stanton and the man was found?—No.

You said yes. Is it untrue that you told Mr. Stanton?—I sent the police in different directions. As matter of fact I told Inspector Stanton to remain in the station.

To give orders and instructions. 43 is supposed to refer to Inspector Stanton?—Yes.

Cheng On was then called. He spoke of having interviews with the defendant and to paying him \$12.60 every Monday. Witness received altogether \$2.20 a day from Tung Kum, but he paid only \$1.80, the difference of 40 cents going in his own pocket.

At the conclusion of this witness's examination in chief Hon. F. H. May was recalled at the request of Mr. Robinson. Mr. May said—Inspector Mann was on leave from 20th June, 1895, to 12th June, 1896, when he resumed duty. He then took charge of the Eastern district, Wanchai, and he has remained in charge at Wanchai until the present. Acting Inspector Hall took charge of Shaukiwan on the 11th December, 1895, and he has been in charge there until the present time.

In reply to the Attorney-General Mr. May said—From the 13th March, 1895, till the time he went on leave Inspector Mann was stationed in the Central District and was in charge of No. 2 gambling section. Wa Lane is in No. 2 section. From the 16th April, 1894, to 20th June, 1894, he was also in charge of No. 2 section. Acting Inspector Hall, from the 12th March, 1895, to the 11th December, 1895, was at the Central Station and in charge of No. 3 gambling section.

His Lordship—It is understood we are not trying these men.

The Attorney-General—My friend asked for the particulars.

Mr. Robinson—Not for the particulars the Attorney-General has given.

His Lordship—I am very much against bringing in these outside cases with which we are not dealing.

Cheng On was then called for cross-examination. He denied making the following statement at the Magistracy—"Tung Kum took me to Sam Yeen and Tung Kum told him in my presence about the conversation with the defendant." He believed the Magistrate made a mistake. The depositions were read over to him and he signed them. What he said to-day was that Tung Kum took him nearly as far as No. 3, East Street, and that he (witness) had the conversation alone with Sam Yeen.

Mr. Robinson—Perhaps you have been told since or have heard that Sam Yeen said—

Mr. Francis asked his friend to ask questions and not to make statements.

Mr. Robinson—I was not making a statement. (To Mr. Francis.) I might say "You are a clever man?" and that might be a question. (Laughter.)

His Lordship (who joined in the laughter)—Now, Mr. Robinson.

The cross-examination was then proceeded with. Witness said it was not a fact that defendant and his wife met him at the corner of Lyndhurst Terrace and spoke to him about some silk. It was not true that he took some samples of silk to the defendant's house on the 11th March, the date of the conversation he said he had with defendant about gambling houses. Witness received \$12.60 from Tung Kum and paid that amount to defendant or his wife every Monday. He got the money in subsidiary coins and changed \$10 of it into bank notes, but he did not lose in changing the money as he went to a shopkeeper,

who was a friend. When witness was arrested he was not shown a warrant and he did not know anything about a banishment warrant. He knew now he was in custody under a banishment warrant. The Captain Superintendent of Police told him something about a banishment warrant, but it was not shown.

Re-examined by Mr. Francis—After witness was arrested he saw Mr. Hastings, solicitor.

By his Lordship—Witness knew nothing about the books and papers found at 3, East Street.

The Court then adjourned.

31st July.

Tung Kum, master of a mercer's shop at 181, Hollywood Road, was called and examined by Mr. Francis. Witness said that every five days he received \$5.50 from Cheung Hing Street and \$17 from Wa Lane. The \$5.50 was paid to him by "Fat Child Chi," who told witness to hand the money to Cheng On. Sam Yeen paid the \$17. The money was paid in subsidiary coins. Of the \$17, \$3.50 went to Cheng On himself, \$8 was for Yung Fat, who was formerly a detective, and \$5.50 was for No. 12. Witness was paid the \$5.50 by "Fat Child Chi" and was told to hand the money to Cheng On for Inspector No. 12. The payments commenced on the 14th March, 1897, from Wa Lane and on the 18th March, 1897, from Cheung Hing Street. Witness received altogether \$31.75 from Sam Yeen every day; that amount included the \$17. The money was distributed according to a list given to him by Sam Yeen. Witness was formerly in the Police Force. He retired on a pension about six years ago. He was now in custody under a banishment warrant.

Cross-examined by Mr. Robinson—After he left the police he went to the country and returned in April, 1894. He could find no occupation and so he went back to the country, but returned to Hongkong in December, 1895. He started his present business in December, 1896. During the interval between December, 1895, and December, 1896, he was engaged in assisting Sam Yeen in distributing "expenses," that is, he was engaged in gambling operations. He was not convicted in March, 1895, for larceny and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment. He was convicted for committing perjury, and was fined \$100. He had only been convicted once.

The Attorney-General and Mr. Francis said the conviction was for assault. Mr. Robinson had not correctly read the conviction.

Mr. Robinson said he was quite right. He then asked the witness about the matter and he admitted that he and another man were charged with stealing two shirts and were sent to gaol for six weeks. In addition witness was charged with assault.

Mr. Robinson then complained that his learned friend, a Queen's Counsel of this colony, had accused him of misrepresenting matters to the Court.

Mr. Francis replied that in the hasty glance he obtained of the conviction paper he certainly did make a mistake.

His Lordship thought that with this explanation Mr. Robinson's honour was satisfied.

Mr. Robinson bowed to his Lordship's decision and the case proceeded.

In answer to further questions witness said that the sentence was afterwards altered to a fine of \$100 on the application of Mr. Denny, who represented him. He admitted that at the Magistracy he said he did not know for whom he received \$8. He was confused when he made that statement. He now admitted that he received it for Yung Fat. Cheng On gave him the name.

Mr. Robinson—I suppose you have seen Cheng On since you were at the Magistracy?

Witness—I saw him yesterday or the day before.

Where? In the witness room?—Yes.

You were both together for the greater part of the day in the witness room?—We were both together, but we did not speak to each other.

I suppose there was some guard over you.

His Lordship—Do I understand that Cheng On told you the name of this man, or do you

recollect it?—Cheng On told me and I now recollect it.

In answer to further questions witness said he did not tell the Magistrate that he received some money from "Fat Child Chi." He did not mention that name at all to the Magistrate.

Re-examined by Mr. Francis—He was not questioned at the Magistracy about the Cheung Hing Street gambling house.

His Lordship—Why didn't you mention it?

Witness—Because I had no direct dealings with the affairs and therefore I did not mention anything about that house. The money was simply handed to me and I was asked to pass it over.

When was the last payment you made to Cheng On?—17th June last.

Sam Yeen, who was convicted of being the keeper of a gambling house at 2, Wa Lane, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, was then called. He said he had been connected with the house for five years. No. 3, East Street, was the outer office of 2, Wa Lane, and the money, jewellery, and accounts were kept there. There was only one gambling house in Wa Lane—only one house in which gaming was actually carried on. Gaming was sometimes carried on in No. 5. In reality there were two houses in which gaming was carried on, but both belonged to the same establishment. The playing was sometimes shifted to No. 2, Ng Kwai Fong, next to the Tam Fa Lau eating house. Gambling had been carried on in Nos. 2 and 5, Wa Lane, every day from the 2nd February this year to the 18th June. The hours were 6 p.m. to 12 p.m. Last year gambling was carried on for six months in broken periods. Witness then spoke to paying money to Tung Kum and to the conversation he had with Cheng On respecting No. 12's application for money. Witness told Cheng On that if No. 12 received \$1 a day the recipient must not chase and beat witness's foks. Witness consented to pay \$1 a day and 10 cents for Cheng On. Witness paid altogether about \$150 a day for distribution during the fourth and fifth moons. The police who received the money were supposed not to take any notice of the gambling houses. Witness was then shown a list and he pointed out the entry "No. 12, \$1.10, Cheng On's hand." That meant that the money was paid to Cheng On. There was also an entry "\$23.55, paid to Tung Kum" and another "\$31.05 paid to Tung Kum." Another entry was "No. 12, \$1, Cheng On's hand entered in Kum's hand," meaning that the money was paid to Tung Kum. The list was a memorandum showing the names of persons to whom money was paid and the amount of each payment.

Mr. Francis—I will now ask your Lordship for direction in reference to the entries in the books, such as 43, 89, and 91, and Government House and other people. Does your Lordship think that I should ask questions about those entries or should the matter be dropped entirely?

His Lordship—Mr. Robinson did ask a certain number of questions about them, but I think we should keep ourselves free of them.

Mr. Francis—I think it is only fair to the parties concerned that some questions should be asked about them, but I am entirely in your Lordship's hands. The matter is not a necessary portion of our case, but I cannot say what my friend in his address to the jury will say.

His Lordship—What I shall say to the jury with reference to this list is that we are not trying the question of the guilt or innocence of all the parties mentioned in this list as having received sums of money, but the defence is entitled to look at this list and if they can show there are absurd entries in it and also impossible things they could say that the list is therefore not bona-fide and the jury would be entitled to disbelieve it.

Mr. Francis—Then, my Lord, that lays the duty absolutely incumbent upon me to show that these entries are not absurd.

His Lordship—On the face of it these entries may be true or untrue, but we are not trying that question.

Mr. Francis—If it is open to my friend to say that the list is entirely false because he thinks fit to say so, the prosecution is entitled to say that they are not absurdities.

His Lordship—As far as my opinion goes he has not succeeded in showing that the entries are unreasonable and ought not to be

there. Suppose the name of the Governor is there as receiving \$5, or the name of the General as receiving \$3, I think the gentlemen of the jury will say, "We cannot believe that; it is so utterly impossible."

Mr. Francis—Very well, my Lord. Even the entries "Government House" so and so and "Ho Kai" so and so can be explained. Suppose the explanation is this, that it is simply an entry relating to a boy in employ at Government House or to a servant in the employ of Dr. Ho Kai. I submit I am entitled to get that explanation from the witness if the defence are allowed to make a point of those entries.

His Lordship—If they do make a point—

Mr. Francis—If they do make point of it it will be too late for me to give the explanations.

His Lordship—We have no evidence that it is Dr. Ho Kai.

Mr. Francis—Questions were asked in reference to 89 and 91. I want to show that they were in receipt of bribes and that there is no reason why the entries should be looked upon as absurdities.

His Lordship—It came out in evidence that they had been formerly in connection with the Central District and therefore I shall put it to the jury that they might or might not have received bribes. But we are not trying that question.

The Attorney-General—I do not wish to throw dirt at anybody who is not here to answer, and your Lordship will notice that I have not introduced a single name, with the exception of Witchell's, as being in receipt of bribes, as all cases of that sort will give very great pain and should be investigated very carefully. My learned friend introduced Nos. 89 and 91 with a view of showing that these persons were not at present in the gambling districts but that they were stationed at other places. He could only possibly do that in order to say to the jury "There are two names of men who could not be in receipt of money; therefore do not believe the evidence." He therefore put me to the rather painful task of asking whether both these men were not in charge of these gambling districts before they went to their present stations. I stopped there. If my learned friend says it is absolutely certain that it cannot be right, I say that such an argument is fallacious and I shall have to show that the men did receive bribes. If my friend in his address to the jury opens an argument of that kind and says that this list is an absurdity because Government House is there, I shall have to give the explanation. It is possible a boy at Government House might be receiving the money. That sort of thing is quite common and not absurd at all. I do not want to go into the other cases in that list and try the list, as such a task would be endless and unfair.

His Lordship—I have already stated that there is no apparent and evident absurdity in this list, but we must not go into the truth or untruth of the entries, even supposing they are *prima facie* reasonable.

The Attorney-General—I would ask your Lordship for permission to ask one question only. In a colony like this it is not right that any dirt should be thrown at high quarters in this matter. My friend is going to say the list is an absurdity—

Mr. Robinson—The dirt will not stick.

The Attorney-General—You would not wish to imply that the Governor has accepted money?

Mr. Robinson—Oh, no.

Mr. Francis (to Witness)—There is an entry "Government House" there.

Witness—That is a firm or head soldier.

What does \$ mean?—30 cents.

Who got the money?—A lukong told me he was on duty in the Ping Tong hong—

A lukong got the money?—Yes.

Can you tell me if the entry means the Governor's residence or the General's residence?—I am not able to explain, but if you send for Ho Wai Pong he will tell you all about it. (Loud laughter.)

Who is Ho Wai Pong?—A lukong at Government House.

His Lordship—Why did you pay a lukong in the employ of Government House 30 cents a day?—Because I was afraid that this lukong might give some information to the Governor.

Mr. Robinson (cross-examining)—How long is it since you commenced making the list on this bit of paper? It looks very clean.

Witness—I made entries on that piece of paper many years ago. I made the entries bit by bit as people came in for money.

How many years?—About three.

Where did you keep the paper?—In the drawer of a cupboard.

The colour of the ink is the same all through?

—The entries were copied from another piece of paper about three years ago, that piece of paper being very dirty.

There was a loss of capital this year?—Yes.

There was a quarrel?—Yes.

Amongst the partners?—Yes.

Do you know if one of them went to Mr. Francis?—I do not know.

For what purpose were these accounts kept—for the purpose of showing partners how the money was made and spent?—Yes.

And for the purpose of showing that you and your fokis were not swindling them?—There was no swindling. Here are the accounts and they could see them.

Between ten and twenty watchmen were employed by the syndicate?—Yes.

For the purpose of keeping a guard round the house and preventing the police from coming in unexpectedly?—Yes.

His Lordship—With regard to the entry "\$1.10," you told us you put "\$1.10" after Cheng On told you he wanted 10 cents?—Cheng On mentioned something about his trouble and that he was entitled to get something for his trouble.

You told us Cheng On suggested 10 cents and you agreed.—He did not ask me for 10 cents; he simply mentioned that he was entitled to receive something. I did not promise to give him anything. I said I would see my master about it.

How could you tell that Cheng On really came on behalf of No. 12?—I say this because before any payment was made No. 12 went to Wa Lane and beat the fokis, but after making the payment to Cheng On there was no more beating.

When he came to you you agreed at once to give him \$1. How do you know he really came on behalf of No. 12?—Well, I said the proof is evident because after Cheng On had been to my place there was no more beating of my fokis, and that is why I came to the conclusion that he came on behalf of No. 12.

Did you go and see No. 12?—No.

Why didn't you?—We carry on an illegal business and therefore we are afraid to see foreigners—Englishmen. There must be some connection in the matter, otherwise Cheng On would not have come and asked me about the matter. If Cheng On had come for himself and asked for the money I would not have given him a cent.

You have no writing from No. 12?—No.

Do any of the people whom you say receive sums of money come and receive them direct from you, or they paid through somebody else?—The majority of them are paid indirectly.

Some of them directly?—As far as Europeans were concerned they got their payments indirectly. Some Chinese constables got their money directly and some indirectly.

These two entries are the only entries in all these books and papers referring to No. 12?—The only entries having reference to No. 12 are in this paper, and not in the account books and papers.

Is there not any book of daily payments or monthly payments which would show the sums paid? Any cash books?—No, I have no entries in other books as to the daily payments. All the payments and names appear in this list. I have another paper like this with the names and the payments to each man.

Like that?—Not as full as this one, but there appear there the names of the parties to whom the money is paid and the names of those who acted as agents and so on.

Did you take any part in the actual carrying on of the gambling?—No, I did not assist in carrying on the gambling. I was stationed at No. 3, East Street looking after the accounts.

Did you know No. 12 yourself by sight?—I knew the defendant only by sight.

Did you know who No. 12 was?—He is an Inspector—a detective Inspector.

Did you know who he was?—He was an Inspector.

When Cheng On called the name No. 12 did you know which man that was?—Yes, I knew No. 12 because in the first and second moons he went to Wa Lane and beat fokis there.

Look at the defendant. Is that the Inspector?—Yes.

When Cheng On called the name "No. 12" did you know it was the defendant in the dock?

—Yes, I knew who No. 12 was directly Cheng On told me about it because No. 12 had been to Wa Lane several times and my fokis told me about him.

Was that memorandum made merely for the purpose of your business?—Yes.

And used in the course of your business?—Yes.

Were all payments you had to make entered in that book?—All expenses I have just mentioned were entered in that book, but profit and loss are entered in other books.

By whose orders was a name put in the list? Did you do it yourself or by order of your master?—Not by order of my master. I made it myself and in case my master called for the accounts I could show them to him.

You had his authority to put names on that list?—I put all the names in this list to show my master in case he accused me of swindling him.

You had authority to put the names in the list?—Yes, because I looked after the accounts.

When the raid was made were all the books seized or were some saved?—Nothing was saved; all the books and papers were taken possession of by the Police, but some other papers were burned before then.

Does that list show the total daily payments to Tung Kum?—Yes.

It does not show the names of the people to whom he was to distribute the money?—No, the names appear in the other book.

Is that the sort of account kept with Tung Kum?—And the others as well.

What is the total daily payments?—\$146.88.

His Lordship—It is no wonder the business did not pay.

The Foreman of the jury—Does the \$146.88 paid daily appear in the general account as one lump sum or as so much money paid away?

Witness—The daily payments of these expenses do not appear in the ledger, but in this bundle of papers.

How did you strike a balance?—I struck a balance by making out the accounts from these papers.

How did the proprietors know the amount when it is not shown in the books?—These bills have to be produced and shown to the masters.

So you have no proper books kept for the proprietors?

Mr. Francis, by permission of his Lordship, asked a few questions in regard to the keeping of the accounts and their Lordship said it would be better if the Court interpreter examined the books.

Mr. Robinson said the Crown were not entitled to further time in this matter. They had had the documents in their possession since June, and he submitted in a case of this sort they ought to have had every document translated for the use of both parties and the Court.

His Lordship said it appeared there was very little in the books relating to the defendant, and he thought it would not be desirable to put the Crown to the trouble and expense of translating those books. Of course Mr. Robinson could also have access to the books.

Mr. Robinson said his point was one of general procedure. The Crown ought to have referred to those documents before they came into court.

Mr. Francis said the books could not have been put in as evidence for the Crown at all. Therefore the Crown had made no preparations, as they did not expect the books to be referred to.

The Attorney-General intimated that the case for the Crown was practically finished unless the jury wished to ask more questions on the books. They had also the silk mercer in reserve to give evidence if called upon.

The Court had now sat from 9 o'clock until 2.10 without an adjournment, and his Lordship said he had an engagement of a semi-public nature at four o'clock. If the jury wished he would resume the hearing about five o'clock if it was possible to finish the case that day.

Mr. Robinson said he might have several witnesses or he might have only one to call; that depended on circumstances and his judgment at the time.

His Lordship thereupon said the case could not be finished that afternoon and the Court adjourned.

The defendant was found guilty yesterday and sentenced to six months without hard labour.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK.

We have received from the Colonial Secretary's Office a copy of H.E. the Governor's Report, dated 23rd July, on the Blue Book for 1896.

The earlier paragraphs are headed respecting Finances, Expenditure, Legislation, Population, and Education.

Under the heading of "Trade" His Excellency says:—

"I regret to state that from a local commercial point of view the year 1896 was somewhat disappointing. Trade was, generally speaking, unprofitable, and importers characterise it as one of the worst years they have experienced for some considerable time—a condition of things which is illustrated, to some extent, by the returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs for Kowloon and District, the statistics shewing a decrease in the value of imports from Hongkong to China amounting to 434,935 Haikwan Taels or some £72,722 as compared with the year 1895.

"I learn on reliable authority that all classes of goods—yarns, piece-goods, metals, and sundries—were imported on a very limited scale, and sales were generally unsatisfactory, being confined, for the most part, to the supply of immediate wants. Shipping employed in Eastern waters shared correspondingly in the general depression, freights being very scarce, and rates unremunerative. The dulness in demand and general absence of all speculative enquiry are commonly ascribed to the after-effects of the China-Japan war, but reasons may possibly also be discovered, so far as the experience of British merchants is concerned, by the light of subsequent remarks and statistics illustrative of foreign competition.

"The opium import for the year shows a decrease of 2,400 chests, and importers have sustained losses owing to the unfavourable rupee exchange without a corresponding rise in the price of the Indian drug in the China market. The price of the Indian product has, however, necessarily risen sufficiently to give an impetus to the production of the native drug, and the shortness of the Bengal opium crops year after year and the diminished auction sales of the Indian Government, added to unfavourable exchange conditions, are factors affecting the price of the Indian drug to such an extent, that, if such conditions continue, the native product must eventually entirely supplant the imported drug.

"A noticeable feature of the year was the marked displacement of Indian cotton yarns by the Japanese product in the Chinese market, and although this fact may be in some measure accounted for by the unfavourable exchange which similarly affected the opium import, and by the closing of the Bombay mills, which tends to further penalise importers from India, there is every indication that the Japanese have taken full advantage of the situation, and there is little doubt, I fear, as to the ultimate result of the competition.

"The main exceptions to the general dulness in demand during the year were the flour trade and the kerosine oil trade. The former business yearly increases, and yielded very handsome profits owing to the high prices of wheat caused by the Indian famine. The kerosine trade also continued to be brisk, and the demand for the Sumatra product is advancing rapidly in China, and is being developed by German agency in this colony.

"Before concluding these general remarks on trade, it may be of some interest to quote the following extract from my speech to the Legislative Council on the 4th December, 1893, as bearing on the situation:—The Japanese are quite alive to the situation so far as it concerns them, and are not only erecting new cotton mills, to the number of 20 it is said, but are about to take the import duty off

raw cotton. It is possible therefore that we may soon see Japan, for a time, supplying China with goods which she formerly obtained from Europe or India. It seems anomalous that whilst England should be striving to extend her commerce and commercial relations in China on the one hand, she should on the other be countenancing measures which apparently have the effect of creating competition against herself and her own productions in the East.

"Under these circumstances the attention of the community should be directed to the desirability of establishing cotton mills in Hongkong. The Government is in possession of several eligible sites, and if only capitalists, either European or Chinese, will come forward and invest their capital in such enterprises, I will endeavour that, so far as the acquisition of land is concerned, they shall be treated with exceptional liberality. The success which has attended other efforts of this nature in Hongkong ought, under these favourable circumstances, to lead to the introduction of additional local industries, such as cotton spinning and weaving, and no more fitting time than the present seems likely to occur. This matter is worthy therefore of the earnest consideration, not only of this community, but of capitalists in the neighbouring provinces in China."

The following paragraphs are headed respectively Shipping, Public Peace and Good Order, Public Health, Sanitation, Climate, and Typhoons.

The concluding section, headed "General," is as follows:—

"In the concluding paragraphs of this, my last Blue Book report from Hongkong, it may not be inappropriate to invite your attention to the following comparisons between the years 1891 and 1896 as indicative of the general progress of the Colony during the period of my administration here.

REVENUE.	
1891	\$2,025,302.51
1896	\$2,609,878.94
Increase	\$ 584,576.43
POPULATION.	
1891	224,814
1896	245,000
Increase	20,186
SHIPPING TONNAGE.	
1891	14,005,698
1896	16,515,953
Increase	2,510,255
TOTAL VALUE OF TRANSIT TRADE.	
1891	126,346,736 Haikwan Taels.
1896	155,280,524 "
Increase	28,933,788 "

"The history of every period and of every country contains its darker as well as its brighter records, and the history of this colony during the past five years furnishes no exception to the rule. There are the dark pages which record the general financial depression which greeted me on my arrival, the melancholy experience of the plague epidemic in 1894, followed by the unfortunate outbreak of war between China and Japan, and the re-visitation of the plague in 1896, but although these may be unpleasant reminiscences, they are experiences which have taught this community a greater reliance on its own resources, and the test of adversity has been productive of good results in more directions than one.

"The establishment of two large kerosine oil depots, a feather-dressing factory, soap works, rattan works, match factories, coal briquette works, and the extensions of the large sugar refineries, rope works, docks, besides other enterprises of less importance, all furnish a satisfactory illustration of the increasing public confidence in the success of local industries; whilst the Praya Reclamation, upon which several fine buildings are in course of construction, and the rapid development of British Kowloon provide ample evidence of the general expansion of the Colony. Add to these the extensive works which have increased the water supply to some 400,000,000 gallons, the fine Central Market, Cattle and Slaughter Depôts, which have a most important bearing on the food supply of the Colony, the Taipingshan Improvement Scheme, the new sewerage works, and the general improvement of the outlying villages, and we have further illustrations of progress in the direction of sanitation.

"In short, despite its darker records—and happily they are few—the history of Hongkong is summed up in the single word "Progress." If, in some measure, my administration has contributed to that result the pleasure derived from the retrospect will tend to mitigate the regret with which I regard my approaching departure from a colony with whose interests I have for six years, without interruption, been identified."

BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN.

On Saturday, 31st July, Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice) distributed the prizes to pupils attending the Belilios Public School. There was a large attendance of parents and friends.

Dr. Bateson Wright, in the absence of Mr. A. W. Brewin, Inspector of Schools, read the annual report.

After presenting the prizes Sir John Carrington said it was a great pleasure to him to be present that day. He claimed a title to be there on two grounds. First of all he was by disposition and up-bringing a great admirer of the fair sex—(laughter)—and secondly, he was by conviction a great believer in the benefits of female education. He had the more pleasure in being there that day because last year he was to have been present, but unfortunately he was not well; whether that was due to a typhoon a night or two before he did not know. This year, too, he was very nearly not able to come because he was engaged in the Court in a long case, and he had to plead with the jury to let him off. After touching upon the history of the school since its foundation, referring to the great obligation the public of the colony owed to Mr. Belilios in providing the school, to the way in which the school was hampered in its early years by head mistresses marrying a year or two after they got out here, and to the efficient work accomplished by Mrs. Bateman, the present head mistress, his Lordship spoke on female education. In this, the Diamond Jubilee year of Her Majesty the Queen, they had all been taking stock of the results obtained during the Queen's reign, and he thought there could be nothing in which more remarkable progress had been attained during these sixty years than in the matter of female education. His memory, he was sorry to say, went back to more than thirty odd years and he could remember that at that time the education of girls was of an extremely jejune, unsatisfactory type. Now female education had broadened and widened very considerably and everyone saw that it was important that women should have a liberal education. In most countries, and more particularly in our own country, there were admirable schools for girls and colleges for women. Only quite recently, as his friend Dr. Wright, of the one University, and Mr. Cobbold, of the other University, knew, ladies had been endeavouring to get titles to degrees at the old Universities, but the Universities had not seen their way to go so far as that. A suggestion had been made that the best way to give higher education to women was by having their own separate University for women, and, so far as he could judge, that would be the result of the movement for the higher and better education of women. When Dr. Eitel wrote his report in July, 1889, he seemed to have thought that the majority of the girls in the School would be Chinese girls; but so far as he (the speaker) could see, the percentage of Chinese girls was considerably less than the percentage of Eurasians and European girls. Dr. Eitel's hope had not been realized, and he should like to know the reason why. Mrs. Bateman mentioned in her report for the year that the possible cause was the disinclination of the Chinese to give education to their girls. The girls who went through the school must do their best to spread the benefits of Western education amongst those with whom they came into contact. After all, they knew very well that the woman, the mother, was the spring and source of culture and refinement in the home, and they therefore looked to these girls, who would become heads of households, to do all in their power to keep alive that light they had received and

spread it abroad as much as they could. In that way the Chinese gentlemen would come to see the benefits of Western culture and they would be more ready to send their girls to school. He was very glad the other day to admit two Chinese gentlemen into practice as solicitors at the court, both of whom had been in England for some time, and who had been at a large public school—Cheltenham College. One of them had gone beyond the public school, and had taken his degree at the University of Oxford. He thought that was a very good example to follow, and if the men followed that example—and a number of them did so by going to Queen's College—and getting an English education there he did not see why the girls should not do the same, because Chinese gentlemen must bear in mind that as their sons became imbued with Western ideas they would not be satisfied that their mothers and sisters should remain ignorant of these ideas. He put it to the Chinese gentlemen in the colony that if they wanted their sons to be highly educated and get some of the benefits of Western civilization they must make up their minds that the women must also share in the same degree these benefits. He congratulated Mrs. Bateman on the large gathering and the successful result of the examination, and he was quite sure all who were present were pleased to see the happy girls so nicely dressed. He hoped those who had not got prizes would strive to get them next year, and those who had got them would endeavour to get better and higher prizes.

At the conclusion of his Lordship's address several pupils gave an enjoyable entertainment.

The following is the prize-list:—

1st Class—Composition, Eliza Moore; Arithmetic, May Hunter; Grammar, Lizzie Olson; Geography, Ethel Long; History, Jane Quincey; Dictation, Eliza Moore; Reading, Ida Armstrong; Map Drawing, Madeline Quincey; Attendance, Lizzie Olson; Highest Marks, Eliza Moore, Needlework, Louisa Heang.

2nd Class—Composition, Ella King; Arithmetic, Annie Parker; Grammar, Annie Parker; Geography, Ella King; Map Drawing, Eliza Turner; History, Eliza Turner; Dictation, Rosie Kennett; Reading, Rosie Kennett; Needlework, Annie Parker; Attendance, Rosie Kennett; Highest Marks, Rosie Kennett.

3rd Class—Composition, Daisy Mather; Arithmetic, Jenny Madar; Grammar, Letitia King; Geography, Emma Legge; History, Letitia King; Dictation, Maude Graig; Reading, Maude Craig; Needlework, Johorah Mohammed; Attendance, M. Craig, D. Mather; Highest Marks, Letitia King.

4th Class—Writing, Rosetta Ahwee; Arithmetic, Alice Lesbirel; Grammar, Kitty Abraham; Geography, Rosetta Ahwee; History, Lily King; Dictation, full marks all; Reading, Hilda Lang; Needlework, Nellie Olson; Attendance, Kitty Abraham; Highest Marks, Hilda Lang.

5th Class—Reading, Bessie Kennett; Writing, Lily Heang; Grammar, L. Heang, H. Esmail, C. Quincey, B. Kennett; Geography, Cecilia Quincey; Dictation, Helena Esmail; Arithmetic, Alice Vanstone; Needlework, Lily Heang; Attendance, Lily Heang, Bessie Kennett; Highest Marks, Bessie Kennett.

6th Class—Reading, Georgina King; Writing, Minnie Sutherland; Arithmetic, Frederic Hyndman; Dictation, G. King, R. Neubrunn, M. Sutherland, E. Rodger, I. Ramsay, O. Hyndman, O. Humphreys, Full Marks; Needlework, Annie Mann and E. Rodger; Highest Marks, Ina Ramsay; Attendance, Octavius Hyndman.

7th Class—Reading, Hannah Rodger; Writing, Ah Yuke; Arithmetic, Ah Yuke, Chow Lan, G. Young, J. Madar, C. Kia, M. Peterson, E. Parker, I. Norna, E. Hyndman, P. Quincey, H. Rodger, full marks all; Dictation, Ah Yuke, Chow Lan, J. Madar, B. Walker, M. Petersen, E. Parker, I. Norna, E. Hyndman, A. Neill, P. Quincey, E. Agaback, full marks all; Needlework, Ida Norna; Attendance, Elia Hyndman, Patrick Quincey; Highest Marks, Ethel Parker; Reward for Diligence, Mary Davis.

Infants—Nancy Sutherland, A. Vanstone, full marks all.

Recitation—Bessie Walker.

Drill.—1st, Alice Lesbirel; 2nd, Kitty Abraham; 3rd, Elsie Lang.

The Head Mistress begs to offer her most sincere thanks to the following gentlemen for their kind subscriptions to the Prize-fund: Hons. E. R. Bellicios, J. J. Bell Irving, Dr. Ho Kai, H. E. Wodehouse, Messrs. Byramjee, Victor Deacon, H. L. Dennys, H. Dann, Fung Wa-chun, D. Gillies, F. D. Goddard, J. D. Humphreys, Ho Tung, Ho Amei, T. Jackson, Mowbray Northcote, A. Gomes, W. Tarn, Wy Ping, Lau Wai-chun, W. Quincey, Ho Fook, Yeung Wai-on, Kee Fai-shan, Wai Sun, —, Thek.

We are requested by Mrs. Bateman, Head Mistress of the Bellicios Public School, to state that a prize was given to the first class by Sir John Carrington for diligence, aptitude, and good conduct. The prize was awarded to May Hunter. A prize was also presented to the second class by Mr. G. J. W. King and awarded to Rosie Kennett.

THE GOVERNOR'S THANKS TO THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

The following correspondence is published in the *Gazette*:—

GOVERNOR TO CHAIRMAN, JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

Government House,
Hongkong, 14th July, 1897.

Sir,—As the representative of the Queen in this Colony, I have the honour to request you, in your capacity of Chairman, to convey to the Jubilee Committee an expression of my high appreciation of their valuable services in connexion with the recent commemoration of the Sixtieth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

The befitting manner in which the historic and memorable occasion was celebrated in this Colony reflects the greatest credit on the Committee generally and merits my grateful acknowledgments. To the Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer, and the Honorary Secretary, upon whom the greater share of responsibility and work must necessarily have fallen, my special thanks are due, and it is my intention to convey an expression of my gratitude to each of those officers individually.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Governor.

The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Chairman,
Jubilee Committee.

CHAIRMAN, JUBILEE COMMITTEE, TO GOVERNOR.

Hongkong, 20th July, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., in which, as the representative of the Queen in this Colony, you request me, in my capacity of Chairman, to convey to the Jubilee Committee an expression of your Excellency's high appreciation of their valuable services in connexion with the recent commemoration of the Sixtieth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

I shall have great pleasure in making known to my colleagues on the Committee, the flattering terms in which your Excellency is pleased to refer to the services of the Committee, and I shall not fail to convey to the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary the special thanks accorded to them.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
G.C.M.G., Governor, &c.

GOVERNOR TO HON. TREASURER JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

Government House,
Hongkong, 14th July, 1897.

Sir,—As the representative of the Queen in this colony, I desire to convey to you my hearty acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by you, as Honorary Treasurer of the Jubilee Committee, in connexion with the recent celebrations in Her Majesty's honour.

The generous response of the community to your appeal on behalf of the Committee is a gratifying indication of the loyalty of this colony, and enabled the commemoration of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign to be

celebrated in a manner worthy of the great occasion. I accordingly desire to tender to you my cordial thanks for your great assistance in securing that result.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Governor.

T. Jackson, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, Jubilee Committee.

TREASURER, JUBILEE COMMITTEE, TO GOVERNOR.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,
Hongkong, 15th July, 1897.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your Excellency's despatch of yesterday's date, in which you thank me for the services I have had the honour of rendering as Honorary Treasurer of the Jubilee Fund.

I would wish to point out that in the collection of funds I was ably assisted by the Chairman, the Honourable C. P. Chater, Mr. H. N. Mody, and Fung Wha Chuen; these gentlemen lighten my duties very considerably. I would also like to place on record the very kindly reception we met with at every house we called at, and the very hearty manner in which all classes of the community subscribed towards celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Reign.—I have the honour to be, your excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

T. JACKSON.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
G.C.M.G.

GOVERNOR TO HON. SECRETARY, JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

Government House,
Hongkong, 14th July, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour, as the representative of the Queen in this Colony, to convey to you an expression of my appreciation of your services, as Honorary Secretary of the Jubilee Committee, in connexion with the commemoration of the Sixtieth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

The excellence of the general arrangements, for which you must necessarily have been in a great measure responsible and towards which your previous experience as Honorary Secretary in the memorable year of 1887 doubtless largely contributed, was worthy of the great occasion and tended to ensure the successful celebration of the unique event.

I accordingly desire to convey to you my grateful thanks for the manner in which you discharged your onerous duties.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Governor.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Hon. Secretary, Jubilee Committee.

HON. SECRETARY JUBILEE COMMITTEE, TO GOVERNOR.

Hongkong, 16th July, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter No. 98/G. of the 14th instant from which I am pleased to learn that the general arrangements in connexion with the commemoration of the Sixtieth Year of Her Majesty's Reign were regarded as satisfactory.

With respect to my share in carrying out those arrangements, I was very glad to be able to render assistance on such a memorable and auspicious occasion, and I am much gratified to find that any help I may have given has met with your approval.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Honorary Secretary, Jubilee Committee.

His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

GOVERNOR TO CHAIRMAN, JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

Government House,
Hongkong, 14th July, 1897.

Sir,—I desire to convey to you an expression of my appreciation of the able assistance which, in your capacity of Chairman of the Jubilee Committee, you afforded me as the representa-

tive of the Queen, on the historic and memorable occasion of the celebration of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

I have requested you in a separate letter to convey my grateful acknowledgments to the Jubilee Committee, and to you, as Chairman of that Committee and as such mainly responsible for the success of the recent celebrations in Her Majesty's honour, I desire to tender my special thanks.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON, Governor.
The Honourable C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Chairman, Jubilee Committee.

CHAIRMAN, JUBILEE COMMITTEE, TO
GOVERNOR.

Hongkong, 20th July, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, conveying your appreciation of the assistance rendered by me to your Excellency in my capacity of Chairman of the Jubilee Committee on the occasion of the celebration of the sixtieth year of the Reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

The kind expressions contained in your letter will always be a source of gratification to me, but I am sure your Excellency will understand that I was only too happy to bear a part in promoting the success of, what you have aptly termed, a truly historic and memorable occasion.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

To His Excellency, Sir William Robinson,
G.C.M.G., Governor, &c.

COLLAPSE OF BUILDINGS IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

TWO MEN KILLED; ELEVEN INJURED.

About 7.40 a.m. on 28th July Nos. 248 and 250, Queen's Road West collapsed, the result being that two men were killed, eleven injured, and three escaped with a slight scratch or so. The cause of the collapse is not known, but it may have been in part due to a fire which broke out in the top floor of No. 248. The ground floor of this building was used a lantern shop, the first floor as an opium divan, and the second floor was void, but it was occasionally used by the lantern shop people. The ground floor of No. 250 was a barber's shop, the first floor an opium divan, and the third floor was occupied by six families. The fire at 248 was not of much account, it having been put out before much damage had been done, but it may be that fire and water weakened the partition wall between the two houses. After the fire the occupants of 248 went away and the building was put in charge of an Indian and a Chinese constable, who stationed themselves outside to prevent anyone from entering pending an examination of the premises by the police. About 6.30 Police Sergeant Gauld went into the place and searched it, but found nothing in it warranting the assumption that the fire was wrongfully started. He then returned to No. 7 Police Station and had been there only a few minutes when the news was received that Nos. 248 and 250 had collapsed. Police Sergeant MacDonald and the firemen and police at No. 7 Police Station immediately turned out and with all haste proceeded with the work of rescue, being aided by a gang of coolies and later by firemen and police from other stations.

The accident was serious enough, but it might have been much more serious but for one or two combined fortunate circumstances. As we have said, the top floor of No. 250 was in the occupation of six families, but all of them, with the exception of a man and a woman, were on the verandah at the time of the occurrence, and the verandah remained intact. Another point is that the partition wall, which seems to have been the first to give way, did not topple over, but collapsed straight downwards, while the first floor of No. 250, where there were several men, did not break up immediately: the crash came but shot off in a body and in a slanting position towards the opposite wall. These two last circumstances of course saved most of the men from being buried in a considerable depth of debris.

Before the police commenced operations in the way was moving the pile of broken

bricks and mortar they listened for noises. The first they heard was a tapping at the back and at the side of the wrecked premises. Without further delay the material round this spot was shifted and in a very short time a man was rescued. He was not much hurt and he informed his rescuers that there were other men buried near him. After clearing away more of the debris four men crawled unassisted from underneath, and subsequently six others, including a woman, were rescued alive. Three of these men, before they were actually free, presented a sorry appearance. They had been dislodged of debris down as far as their knees, but as their legs were pinned between the edge of the flooring and a heavy beam and brickwork it was sometime before they could be got out. Singularly enough, they sustained very slight injuries. Of the two dead bodies found buried underneath the brick-work one was that of the master of the opium divan and the other of a coolie in his employ. Altogether eleven patients were sent to the hospital, two dead bodies were taken to the mortuary, and three men on being recovered were allowed to go away as there was nothing whatever the matter with them. Of the eleven taken to the hospital only three were detained. The first is suffering from injuries to the left foot and wounds on the head, the second has his right foot injured, and the third has several bruises about the body. Generally speaking the eight out-patients sustained only a few bruises and a cut or two.

The work of rescue was hard and hot and a little dangerous as the lower part of the partition wall did not look at all safe, while the front of the building had to be propped up in order to lessen the danger of its falling.

On 30th July Hon. H. E. Wodehouse held an inquest on the bodies of the two men who were killed owing to the collapse of 248 and 250, Queen's Road West. The evidence showed that the party wall had been poorly constructed. His Worship found a verdict of accidental death and added that there was not sufficient evidence to show the immediate cause of the collapse of the party wall.

HONGKONG POLICE AT THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

The following interesting letter has been received by a European member of the Hongkong Police Force from one of his comrades who took part in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in London:—

Chelsea Barracks,

London, 25th June, 1897.

Dear —, You will see by the heading of this letter that I am now staying at Chelsea Barracks enjoying a soldier's life. We (the Europeans) arrived here on the 20th inst. and joined the Indians and Chinese to take our humble part in the great Diamond Jubilee. Thank goodness it is now over. The day in London will never be forgotten. The Colonials had to fall in at 7 a.m. and from that hour until 3 p.m., when we returned, we could not get a drink of water. Two of our men fell sick in the ranks. One of them—Dixon—fainted and was removed to St. George's Barracks. The first medical man to receive him there was Dr. James, late of Hongkong. Dixon was all right the following morning. As you have doubtless seen from the papers we were allowed the privilege of seeing the whole of the Royal procession. Being the first to start we were drawn up at St. Paul's on both sides of Ludgate Hill, where we had an excellent view of the whole procession. The other officials who took part took up their positions in front of St. Paul's to receive Her Majesty. The weather was very hot indeed, the sun shining the whole day and putting us in mind of Hongkong. Of the processionists I think the Indian princes, with their gorgeous uniforms and decorations, made as gay an appearance as any. The whole sight was one which will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. We had a fine view of Her Majesty the Queen. She looked most happy and smiled pleasantly as she glanced right and left. As she passed us she turned sharply round; probably the Chinese attracted her attention more than we did. Then

she turned to the opposite side where the representatives of the Hongkong Regiment were stationed. The Princess of Wales and the Princess Christian were the other occupants of Her Majesty's carriage.

The service at St. Paul's Cathedral, though short, was very impressive. After this ceremony the procession moved on and we (the Colonial contingent) took up the rear, the bands playing the National Anthem, "Home, Sweet Home," and "Auld Lang Syne." The whole route was lined on both sides with soldiers and volunteers and they were for miles as close together as they could stand. The Colonials were received with deafening cheers by the public; indeed the cheers were so loud that sometimes it was impossible to hear the commands of our officers.

I saw some Hongkong residents along the line of route. They all recognised the Hongkong uniform. I forget most of the names, but amongst them were Mr. Hancock and Captain Murray, late A.D.C. to General Barker. Captain Murray was with his Regiment and although he must have been fully occupied he gave me a nod of recognition and raised his hand as we passed him.

We marched in companies. The Europeans were first, the Indians second, and the Chinese were in the rear. A company of native North Borneo Police was just in front of us. These men are very small and we big men coming immediately behind them made them look still smaller. Everyone who spoke to us said we were a big lot of fellows and that our uniform was very smart. The same was said of the Indians. I must confess, however, that we did not look very smart by the time we returned to barracks. It was touch and go with all of us, but we all stuck to our colours. Some of the North Borneo native police dropped out of the ranks on the return journey an hour before we got to barracks; so did some of the Malays and representatives of other nationalities. If we could have got some water during the day I do not think we should have felt so bad, but although the sun was burning hot and we were carrying our carbines we did not get anything to drink and we naturally commenced to feel the want of some refreshment before we got back. (Of course if we had fallen out of the ranks we could have got some water.)

On the following morning, the 23rd, the Colonials paraded in Hyde Park in review order before Lord Wolseley. To-day we are going on the invitation of Sir Henry Irving to a private performance at the Lyceum Theatre. We have also been invited to the great naval review at Spithead to-morrow, and on the 1st July we are to attend the review of troops at Aldershot.

We are being detained here longer than we expected, and as we did not make preparations for such a long stay we have to rough it a bit, the Europeans, Indians, and Chinese being all in one room. The sergeants have a mess, but the constables have to take their food where they sleep. There have been many complaints about the treatment of the Colonials in barracks, but with such a large number of men representing nearly every corner of the globe we cannot expect too much attention. The Colonial contingent numbers about one thousand men. I have never seen such a crowd before. They are of all colours and shades and present an extraordinary sight with their various uniforms. I think we shall get away after the review of the 1st July.

Yours very sincerely,

A petition has been forwarded to the Shanghai Municipal Council through Captain Mackenzie, by foreign members of the Police force, requesting that they may be placed on the same footing as the other Municipal departments, so that their salaries may be paid them in taels instead of dollars—or practically speaking, asking for an increase of 30 per cent. The complaint about the low rate of exchange, says the *China Gazette*, is undoubtedly a convenient argument for the support of an application for increase of salary, but when the matter is discussed in all its bearings it will be found that a 1st class sergeant now gets less pay than an ordinary constable got ten years ago.

THE POLO TOURNAMENT.

The Sixth Quarterly Polo Tournament since the presentation of the Hon. F. H. May's Cup was commenced on Wednesday, 28th July, between teams representing the 14th Regiment and The Club.

14TH REGIMENT.

Mr. Tew
Mr. Wood
Mr. Spencer
Mr. Gordon

THE CLUB.

Capt. Burney, R.A.
Capt. Phillips, A.D.C.
M. Lawford, R.N.
Mr. Gibson

The issue was never in doubt; still the Club held to their guns and determined to have at game for it. The Club won the toss and chose the Nullah goal. Shortly after the ball was thrown in Wood secured it and made a long hit, which Burney in his endeavours to save met with a fall, but was not much damaged. The ball was hit out and after a bit of play in the centre of the ground the Club got possession and running it down Gibson just missed a goal and secured a subsidiary, making things level. Soon after this Wood hit a goal, and after changing ends almost immediately Wood hit another goal, resulting from Phillips missing a "back-hander." During the remainder of the quarter Wood hit another subsidiary and Spencer got one, so the game stood 14th Regiment 2 goals 3 subs. to the Club 1 sub.

The second quarter was almost more one-sided than the first. While the Regiment were playing well in their places and riding off successfully, the Club made no attempt to do so, every player playing for himself. However, criticism of the play is out of place when we remember that most of them are beginners. Wood hit two more goals and two subs. and Tew two goals for the Regiment, and Burney hit a goal for The Club, bringing the game to a close as a victory for the Regiment by 6 goals and 5 subs. to 1 goal and 1 sub.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead kindly umpired during the match.

ON LOOKER.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the sixty-fourth report of the Court of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, 14th August, at noon:—

To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you general statement of the Bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 30th June last.

The net profits for that period, including \$300,323.95, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$1,826,674.22.

The directors recommend the transfer of \$500,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$7,000,000.

After making this transfer and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for appropriation \$1,311,674.22, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of one pound and five shillings sterling per share, which will absorb \$444,444.44.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1/11½, the rate of the day, amounts to \$566,081.88.

The balance, \$301,147.90, to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. D. R. Sassoon, M. D. Ezekiel and A. McConachie having resigned their seats on leaving the Colony, the following gentlemen have been invited to fill the vacancies thus created:—Messrs. David Gubbay, A. J. Raymond and Gerald Slade. The Directors have likewise invited Mr. G. D. Böning to join the Board.

All these appointments require confirmation at this meeting.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. C. S. Sharp.

ST. C. MICHAELSEN, Chairman.

Hongkong, 29th July, 1897.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 30TH JUNE, 1897.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Paid-up capital	10,000,000.00		
Reserve fund	6,500,000.00		
Marine insurance account ..	250,000.00		
Notes in circulation	9,319,308.63		
Current accounts:—			
Silver	\$49,943,083.84		
Gold, £3,065,900 5s. 10d.—	30,975,477.70		
		80,918,561.63	

Fixed deposits:—		\$	c.
Silver	\$30,641,249.52		
Gold, £2,610,278 5s. 3d.—	26,376,168.87		
		57,017,418.39	

Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)	12,465,523.15
Profit and loss account	1,826,674.22
	\$178,297,486.02

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cash	24,199,397.30		
Bullion in hand and in transit	3,548,689.97		
Indian and Colonial securities	4,191,730.15		
Investments, viz.:—			
£250,000 2½ per cent. Consols lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve \$1,900,000.00			
£510,650 Consols and other sterling securities	5,160,252.63		
		7,060,252.63	

Bills discounted, loans and credits	65,269,997.73
Bills receivable	72,961,116.03
Bank premises	966,322.21
Dead stock	100,000.00
	\$178,297,486.02

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 30TH JUNE, 1897.

Dr.		\$	c.
To amounts written off:—			
Remuneration to directors	15,000.00		
To dividend account:—			
£1 5s. per share on 80,000 shares—			
£100,000 at 4s. 6d.	444,444.44		
To dividend adjustment account:—			
Difference in exchange between 4s. 6d., the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1s. 11½d., the rate of the day	566,081.88		
To transfer to reserve fund	500,000.00		
To balance carried forward to next 1-year	301,147.90		
		\$1,826,674.22	

Cr.		\$	c.
By balance of undivided profits, 31st December, 1896 \$	300,323.95		
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 30th June, 1897, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	1,526,350.27		
		1,826,674.22	

RESERVE FUND.		\$	c.
To balance	7,000,000.00		
		\$7,000,000.00	
By balance, 31st December, 1896	\$6,500,000.00		
By transfer from profit and loss account ..	500,000.00		
		\$7,000,000.00	

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LTD.

The half yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, was held on Saturday at noon at the Company's offices, Hon. E. R. Belilios presided and there were also present—Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, N. A. Siebs (Directors), T. Arnold (Secretary), A. A. da Cruz, Capt. A. Tillett, Messrs. E. J. Moses, F. Henderson, W. S. Bailey, J. H. Cox, and J. R. Michael.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the Report and Accounts having been in your hands for several days, I propose that, as usual, they be taken as read. Your Directors are pleased to be again able to come before you with a satisfactory report for the half-year. There is nothing of especial interest for me to comment upon in connection with the working; we have been doing a good, steady business, and the result ad-

mits of the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend of 8 per cent., leaving some \$30,000 to be carried forward to next half-year's account. That long-looked-for event, the opening of the West River, has at length taken place, and, as you will have observed by the report, your Directors, jointly with other local Companies, at once commenced operations in the region. The service, however, had been in operation for too short a time to affect the result of the past half-year's working to any great extent one way or the other. The value of the trade will shew itself better at the end of the current half-year. Meanwhile, I caution shareholders not to expect too much in the way of increase of revenue from this source for some time to come. New trades are not built up in a day and this one forms no exception to the rule. That the trade will ultimately prove remunerative your Directors have no doubt, but there are still many difficulties to be overcome, and in these early days we do not look for much more than the covering of expenses. You will have noticed that we have invested in some property at the new treaty ports. Although there was no immediate necessity for this, it was thought desirable, in view of future contingencies, to acquire water frontage at these places while land was still cheap. The amount invested is small and the property is, even now, worth more than it cost, so your directors trust that their action in this matter will meet with your approval. I may mention that the two small boats recently built for us by the Dock Company have proved themselves to be well adapted for the West River trade as it is just now. Ultimately, no doubt much larger steamers will be required, but these boats seem to be just what was wanted to begin the trade with. They are running regularly between Canton and Wuchau, and two boats of somewhat similar capacity have been chartered for the run between Hongkong and Wuchau. Owing to the absence of any arrangement for the collection of Customs' dues at Kong Moon, an attempt made by the Company to establish a regular service between Macao and Samshui proved a failure, and after six weeks' running your Directors reluctantly withdrew the boat, being convinced that there was no chance of the line proving remunerative until this question of the collection of duty had been solved. Turning now to our accounts, the increase in the item "wharves, &c." is represented by the amount expended on our new wharf at the end of Wing Lok Street and the cost of hulks for use at Wuchau and Samshui. The new sailing lighter mentioned at our last meeting has been completed and will probably be a good serviceable craft for many years to come. Share investments remain as valued in the previous half-year's accounts. A readjustment of values will take place at the end of the year when, if present rates be maintained, there should be a substantial addition to the credit of the Investment Fluctuation Account. You will have observed that the item "Property foreclosed" again appears in our balance sheet, but no loss in that direction is anticipated, and meanwhile the rents yield a fair interest on the amount invested. The amount due from underwriters on account of the *Heungshan* average claim having appeared in two successive balance sheets, I may mention that the delay has arisen from the fact that the average adjusters had to write out for some additional information before they could proceed with the statement. We shall probably hear of the settlement of this claim in a mail or two. The amount expended on repairs has been somewhat greater than was anticipated at our last meeting; the outlay has been principally by two rather expensive jobs—new plates for the hull of the *Honam* and the same for the deck of the *Fatshan*, which together ran into something like \$20,000. The rest of the expenditure was for ordinary repairs incidental to the usual annual overhauls. With these few remarks, gentlemen, I would propose the adoption of the report and accounts, but before doing so I shall be pleased to answer, to the best of my ability, any questions which may suggest themselves to shareholders.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts.

Capt. TILLET seconded.
Carried.

On the motion of Mr. J. R. Michael, seconded by Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, the retiring Directors (Hon. E. R. Bellios and Mr. F. A. Gomes) were re-elected.

The auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson, were re-elected on the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Hon. J. J. Bell Irving.

The CHAIRMAN—that is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be issued on Tuesday.

THE QUEEN AND EUREKA MINES.

We have received from Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, the General Managers, the following reports:—

NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO.,
LIMITED.

Mount Macdonald
6th July, 1897.

Queen Mine.—The contractors are still making good progress with the sinking, having now completed 60 feet of their contract for 100 feet. The shaft is now down 277 feet from the surface. There is no change in the country since last report.

The engine and boiler shed has now been completed and a good piece of work has been made of it. The tributors at the Balmoral lease are working very well and are hoping for favourable results.

p. pro. JOHN D. HUMPHREYS AND SON
C. J. WILLMOTT.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED,
Mount Macdonald
6th July, 1897.

Eureka Mine.—Since reporting on 25th June, there is no change in the development of the reef, there being no sign of it decreasing in size or quality. The drives and stopes are being pushed ahead at both levels so as to largely increase the output as soon as the battery is ready for it. The sinking and timbering of the main shaft below the 200 ft. level is progressing most satisfactorily with the two shifts of men as previously mentioned; and good progress is being made also with the air and mullock shaft mentioned in last report. During the fortnight ending 26th June, the battery was not running full time owing to repairs being necessary to it, which consequently lessened the quantity of stone put through and the yield of gold; but it is now running better and being worked to its full capacity.

New battery.—Machinery is being made and as soon as received it will be erected as speedily as possible.

Battery dam.—Is very low as the rain still keeps away; and were it not for the supply received from the Eureka shaft, the stampers would have had to cease work before now. We have started two men to sink a shaft on G. L. 35 for prospecting. All work is going on satisfactorily and the engine is in good working order.

p. pro. JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
C. J. WILLMOTT.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

BANK DIVIDEND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Can you explain why the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation pays shareholders on the London Register £1.5.0 while it pays those on the Hongkong Register only £1.4.0 at to-day's rate, while it may be £1.3.0 or less by the time it is paid? When a dividend of 25s. is declared that sum should be paid either at the rate of the day on which it is payable or on which the warrants are presented for payment. If the difficulty of keeping the accounts is alleged I can only say that that is all fudge. If I hold a hundred shares I pay \$52.60 to shareholders on the London Register. Yet although I expect before long to reside in London the Bank refuses to transfer my shares.—Yours faithfully,

AN IRATE TRADER.

Hongkong, 29th July, 1897.

MAT SALLEH'S ATTACK ON GAYA.

MR. NEUBRONNER RESCUED.

FLIGHT OF MAT SALLEH.

The *Singapore Free Press* publishes the following special telegram:—

Labuan, 20th July.

Messrs. Hewett and Wheatley have returned to Labuan from their expedition to Inanam where Mat Salleh had fortified himself.

The result of their operations is that they have rescued Mr. Neubronner, the Treasurer of Gaya, who had been carried off as a prisoner.

Mat Salleh himself has taken to flight and escaped into the jungle.

The Labuan correspondent of the same paper writes on 16th July as follows:—

No news has arrived from Mr. Hewett since he left here on the morning of the 11th, and it has been impossible and will be for some time to estimate accurately the amount of plunder carried away by the rebels, but it is known that they took \$7,300 from the Opium Farmer and not less than \$8,000 from the Treasury. It is probable that the loss in dollars only did not fall far short of \$30,000. He is a cool hand this Mat Salleh. He made the Chinese themselves disgorge their property and load it into his boats: this finished he set fire to their houses.

The fact that nothing has been heard from Messrs. Hewett and Wheatley would point to their having found their foe gone on reaching Gaya, and that they are pursuing them up some one or more of the Rivers in the neighbourhood. If this is the case they have no easy task before them; a stern chase is always a long one, but there is this consolation the expedition could not be in better hands.

The Directors of the Chartered Co. have, I understand, cabled out that no effort is to be spared to suppress the rebellion once and for all.

By his capture of Gaya it is probable Mat Salleh would be able to increase the number of his followers carrying firearms by about a dozen: he may also have secured about 1,000 rounds of ammunition. I believe this, however, is a doubtful advantage to him, as a rifle in the hands of an undrilled native is more dangerous to himself than any one else. Even the Dyak Police when excited cannot hold a rifle straight.

CHINA'S PROPOSAL TO REVISE HER TARIFF.

We are informed on good authority, that Chang Yin-huan, who was charged to continue the negotiations which Li Hung-chang opened last year with the various Western Governments with the object of increasing China's Customs Tariff, reports by telegraph to Peking that all his efforts to induce the Powers to consent to the proposal have failed. This is not to be wondered at as long as China sticks to her vile system of internal taxation and robbery at every barrier.—*China Gazette*.

ANOTHER PROJECTED LOAN.

Shanghai, 26th July.

Our Peking correspondent, whose communications are based upon knowledge from the inside, tells us in a letter dated 19th inst., that negotiations are in active progress between Li Hung-chang and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank respecting a fresh loan to the Chinese Government. The amount of the loan is £16,000,000, to be taken at 85½ per cent. with 4½ per cent. interest. These figures are much more favourable, the Chinese consider, than Dr. Dudgeon's abortive 5 per cent. loan at 94. Our Correspondent adds that the negotiations have been protracted owing to the bank's insistence upon certain important conditions with regard to the repayment of the principal and interest. The guarantee offered is said to be the Imperial Maritime Customs receipts and the internal revenue of the Chinese Government. How the latter is to be handled to give it any value as a security for a foreign loan, we are not told. But if the internal revenue is so given and accepted, we may be prepared to hear of sweeping changes in the mode of its collection and administration. The Chinese consider the terms as more favourable to them

than those in any other recently projected loan, and Li Hung-chang is very anxious to put it through.

With regard to the Belgian Railway Loans, our correspondent (writing a week ago) said that the Belgians had proposed certain revisions in the terms of the contract in order to give them better security, as the first draft of the Convention was much too favourable to China.—*China Gazette*.

A CHINESE PRETENSION.

In his Report on the State of Trade at the Treaty Ports of China, Mr. Brennan mentions that:—"In Foochow the import trade is wholly in the hands of Chinese; but as a matter affecting the prosperity of the port, the British mercantile community complains, that although under the treaty of 1842 it is the city of Foochow that is open to foreign trade, the Chinese officials, for purposes of taxation, treat Foochow as outside the limits of the port. All merchandise after paying import duties at the Custom-house is further taxed on its way to the city or suburbs." The question at Foochow should have been settled long before this by the Consuls there or the Ministers at Peking; meanwhile it is being used as a precedent by the Chinese in an important question that is now before the Foreign Ministers at Peking.

The Chinese are endeavouring to insist that foreigners shall not be allowed to have business offices in the native cities of Hangchow and Soochow; they say that they have provided Settlements outside the walls of the cities, and foreigners must be content with those settlements. Of course, they would like, if they could, to restore the old Canton days, when foreigners were strictly confined within the four walls of the factories; but as this is now happily impossible, they are throwing, after the manner of Chinese officials, as many obstacles as they can in the way of foreign trade at the new ports. The position taken up by the United States authorities is that when a port is opened by treaty to foreign trade, it is not meant that the foreign concession is the only part that is opened; for if there were no foreign concession—and there are still several ports in that condition—could it be held that foreigners could not reside at the port so declared open?

This is, of course, a *reductio ad absurdum*. Some of the oldest foreign firms in Shanghai took their Chinese names from the Chinese mercantile establishments in the city at which these firms were lodged when Shanghai was first opened. They moved to the concessions subsequently because of the want of the amenities of civilisation in the native quarters; but there was no suggestion that they were not allowed to have offices in the city. To take a modern instance, we find that at Chungking, which has been opened for some years, the foreigners live and do business in the native city. In fact, it is really idle to suggest that where the port and the city are adjacent to each other, the opening of the port does not mean the opening of the city. Where foreigners do not live in the native city at an open port, it is from choice, not from any conviction that the port is open and the city is not. We may be pretty sure that if the Foreign Ministers tolerate this pretension, the next step will be for the Chinese officials to claim that at open ports missionaries must be confined to the concessions.

There is another very serious point, in upholding which the Chinese are no doubt using Foochow as a precedent. If China succeeds in persuading the Foreign Ministers to allow her contention, then all foreign goods landed at an open port will have to pay likin dues before they can be passed through the gates of the native cities at the ports. It is quite true that in the Chefoo Convention of 1876 Sir Thomas Wade weakly consented to "move his Government to allow the ground rented by foreigners (the so-called Concessions) at the different ports to be regarded as the area of exemption from likin;" but by the Additional Articles to the Chefoo Convention signed in London in 1885, it was provided that the arrangements in relation to the area within which likin ought not to be collected on foreign goods at the open ports, and to the Foreign Settlement area, required further consideration; and it was agreed between Lord Salisbury and Marquis

Tseng, as representing their respective Governments, that these arrangements should be reserved for further consideration between the two Governments. Here the matter stands, that further consideration never having been given to it, though twelve years have elapsed since the additional articles were signed; and yet it is a fact, though it is difficult to believe, that the ingenuous Princes and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamén are now relying on the Chefoo Convention in support of their claim that likin must be paid on foreign goods entering the city of Foochow.

As the question, however, is not regulated by the Chefoo Convention, it must be referred to the Treaties of 1842 and 1858. The Treaty of 1842 opens in so many words "the cities and towns" of Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai to residence and trade, and "there is no limitation as to the area that is to be open in each case. The Treaty of 1858 says that in addition to the five original ports, British subjects may frequent the cities and ports of Newchwang, Tangchow (Chefoo)," etc., and "they shall enjoy the same privileges, advantages, and immunities as the said towns already opened to trade," etc. The Treaties with other Foreign Powers generally follow the British Treaties. The Treaty of Shimonoseki, under which Soochow and Hangchow have been opened, says: "The following cities, towns, and ports, in addition to those already opened shall be open to the trade . . . with the same privileges and facilities as exist at the present open cities, towns, and ports of China."

The question is, we know, being vigorously taken up by the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Peking, and the Foreign Ministers, we may be sure, will resist this among the many other obstructions that the Chinese are so prone to put in the way of the carrying out of the Treaties.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE SHANGHAI-WOOSUNG RAILWAY.

The earthwork in connection with this railway, between Woosung and Kwangwang, is being rapidly pushed forward, and the work of constructing the abutments for the bridges is now in progress, but owing to the difficulty of accurately ascertaining the owners of certain plots of land near Shanghai, the work from this end has not yet been commenced.—*China Gazette.*

SEIZURE OF A CHARTERED JUNK AT ICHANG.

THE CHINESE GIVE WAY.

The Ichang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—I told you in my last that a chartered junk had been seized by the officials ostensibly to be used for conveyance of famine rice. I am glad to say that the Consul's firmness at last succeeded, and that the junk is released. After ten day's shuffling on the part of the deputy Taotais, the Consul carried out his threat and telegraphed to Peking. As soon as they found that he had really done so they gave way, and so the episode, in the meantime, is at an end. Direct interference with the ordinary traffic is thus stopped, but the indirect interference with trade is very great and that from causes for which the officials are largely responsible. They impose such low rates upon the boats and trackers they employ, that the men prefer to make themselves scarce, and hence not only can they not get the rice up as they want to, but the junks chartered by foreign firms, many of which have been lying for weeks loaded and ready to start, cannot get crews either. It is easy to see what dislocation this means to the trade of the whole Upper Yangtze. If stocks which should have been at Chungking ere this are accumulated here, it must tell seriously on the present contracts and arrangements of merchants in the West, interfere with future orders, and so rebound on others below, the steamboat companies themselves among the rest. One wonders when these companies will seriously consider the possibility of running through to Chungking. A time like this, which may easily recur, would be a harvest to them. But as well

as the natural obstacles to overcome, there would be need also for some efficient protection, for a time, for the steamers. The monkey myth has pretty well disappeared, but multitudes of boatmen and trackers continually going to and fro would not unlikely be disposed to hinder the opening of a traffic they would consider ruinous to the junk trade, and need stronger repression than the officials might care to give. Be this as it may, things are bad here just now; and the deadlock may continue indefinitely as it is said there are 30,000 piculs of rice to be sent up yet.

SINKING OF THE "TAIHOKU-MARU."

A telegram from London received by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha on the 14th July states that the Company's new steamer *Taihoku-maru*, 3,100 tons, while on her way out to Japan, has collided with a vessel in the neighbourhood of Lisbon and finally sunk. All the crew are safe. The ship is insured to the full amount. Referring to the news the *Jiji Shimpō* remarks that the *Taihoku-maru* had been ordered by the Shosen Kaisha through the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and all responsibilities for the ship rested with the latter Company until she was delivered to the owners on arrival in Japan. The vessel is fully insured and therefore the loss will be borne by the Insurance Companies. She was one of the three vessels ordered from England and was built by Messrs. J. L. Thompson & Co., Sunderland, at the cost of £60,000. She left London on June 22nd for Japan, the captain and the crew being all foreigners. Her cargo, which consisted of rails and other railway materials, became a total loss.—*Japan Gazette.*

Wiring with regard to the wreck of the steamer *Taihoku-maru*, Mr. Kurino, the Japanese Minister in Paris, also accredited to the Court of Portugal, states that the steamer foundered off Lisbon as the result of a collision with a British merchant vessel. A Portuguese man-of-war went out to the rescue of the crew on the rapidly-sinking Japanese steamer. All the crew were saved and afterwards sent back to England.

A NEW SHIPBUILDING YARD FOR KOBE.

It is reported, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, that the Mitsu Bishi Company has under consideration a scheme for building a shipbuilding yard in the vicinity of Kobe that will be large enough to construct a war vessel of the size of the *Fuji*. Mr. Okamoto Harumichi, one of the principal officials of the Company, recently arrived in Kobe, and is said to have entered upon negotiations for the purchase of the Wado shrine and the grounds attached thereto, amounting to some 1,500 *tsubo*. To this will be added the premises of the Wada Warehousing Co., for which it is said the Mitsu Bishi offers 450,000 yen, and also other property adjoining. The paid-up capital of the Warehousing Co. is 157,500 yen, so that if the figures given are correct the Company will make a large profit by selling. The Government is said to have suggested the undertaking to the Mitsu Bishi, which finds its works at Nagasaki too limited and the locality unsuitable for expansion.

THE "ADEN" DISASTER.

A despatch to the *Daily Mail* from Aden says:—Two days after leaving Colombo the *Aden* was struck by a severe monsoon, with squalls, violent and incessant. Day by day the weather grew thicker and the passengers became more and more alarmed. At 3 o'clock on the morning of June 9th, the vessel struck upon the Rasadeisha reef, on the eastern coast of the island of Socotra. The engine room was instantly flooded and utter darkness ensued.

Wild with panic, the passengers rushed from their cabins and fled terror-stricken to the upper deck in the scantiest of clothing. The women and children screamed in fright and confusion, but the men remained cool and retained their self-possession and courageously assisted the officers and crew to do their best to save the vessel and to inspire calmness. But it was soon seen that the steamer could not survive the shock and that the only chance for safety lay in the boats.

Life belts were distributed, distress signals given, and the boats on the lee side prepared for launching. Those on the weather side had already been washed away. In the meantime, seeing that some hours were likely to elapse before it would be possible to launch the boats, the passengers gladly accepted the assistance of the crew to obtain more clothing.

The storm continued to increase in violence. Great seas washed the vessel with terrific force. Daylight brought no relief and only served to reveal still further the awful situation.

Misfortune followed misfortune. A life boat was lowered, only to be swept away immediately, with three Lascars and the first officer, Mr. Carden. The gig was dispatched to the rescue, with Mr. Miller, the second officer, but to the despair of all, both boats were swept away.

The only remaining lifeboat was then lowered amid a scene of intense emotion. A cry of anguish broke from the lips even of the men when this half capsized, throwing the sailors and the stores into the sea. After great efforts the boat was righted and the women and children were lowered into it, with exception of Madames Gillett, Pearce and Strain, who heroically resolved to share the fate of their husbands, and Miss Lloyd and Miss Weller, who remained behind. The boat, manned by a European crew, left in a tremendous sea, and drifted rapidly out of sight.

Vast waves were still sweeping the wreck, dashing the people about and leaving them almost prostrate on the deck. One by one, men and children growing too weak to withstand the repeated buffetings, were washed overboard in sight of those who were momentarily expecting the same fate. Among the first thus engulfed were Mr. and Mrs. Strain and their two children; Misses Lloyd and Weller, the missionaries; Mrs. Pearce's baby, with its Chinese nurse and then Captain Hill, whose leg was broken, but who had borne himself calmly and bravely. He was washed overboard, with several of the native crew.

All day the victims were picked off, one by one, until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when those who still survived retreated below. Many were badly hurt and passed the night in suspense and bodily pain, huddled in the small cabin which they expected would be their tomb. None of the survivors whom I have seen cares to talk of this terrible night.

The storm abated slightly on the morning of the 16th, and those who were able to move began to search for food, hunger until then having failed to assert itself over more acute privations. This proved a task of the greatest danger, as the big seas were still sweeping the vessel. The fourth engineer, while trying to procure water near the poop, was struck senseless and almost washed overboard before he could be dragged to a place of safety. Artificial respiration and similar expedients were resorted to, but it was five hours before he was restored to consciousness. Mr. Pearce was only saved from being washed overboard by the prompt action of his dauntless wife.

The search for food resulted in their getting very little of it and this was shared out equally and in very small portions. All the time desperate men kept a sharp look out. But no vessel was sighted until the 13th, and then the distress signal was not seen. On the 17th and again on the 20th other vessels were sighted, but the signals either were not seen or were ignored. These unhappy episodes caused painful and half-crazy scenes of rage among those who had been previously self-controlled. Each day it was necessary to curtail the allowance of rations. Mrs. Gillett did the catering and contributed greatly to cheering up the ship's company.

The weather usually moderated in the morning, but always increased in violence during the afternoon. Frequently a sea thirty feet high would sweep the decks from stem to stern and carry away portions of the vessel.

On June 25th, when things were at their worst and the food supply was almost exhausted, Messrs. White, Kelt, Cave and Valpy bravely ventured across the deck to the storeroom and got a fresh supply. That evening two steamers were sighted. One proceeded without paying any attention to the distress signals. The other anchored under the lee of the island. As soon as she was sighted a Lascar mounted the rigging and signaled her. In reply candles burned in

her portholes and at daybreak on the 26th a suspense of seventeen days was relieved by the spectacle of the steamer rounding the point and heading towards the wreck. She dropped anchor about a mile away.

A very heavy sea was still running, but the wind had moderated slightly. With heartfelt joy, mingled with the tears of the men and hysterical sobbing of the women, they saw the lifeboat lowered. It took her three-quarters of an hour to reach the wreck. Every one rushed to the broken side of the ship. It was the lifeboat of the Indian Government steamer *Mayo*, and in charge of Lieutenants Dobin and Goldsmith.

They skilfully avoided the tremendous wash and secured all of the survivors in two trips. Every attention was paid to the passengers on board the *Mayo*. Their health is improving and they will sail homeward to-morrow (Wednesday) on the steamer *India*.—*San Francisco Examiner*.

AMOY.

10th July.

Last week Amoy got caught in the outer northern circle of a typhoon followed by a series of strong south-westerly gales accompanied by deluges of rain. Steamers were delayed and telegraphic communication interrupted for several days. The Douglas steamship *Thales* could not get to Taiwanfoo and had to take shelter for nearly a week in the Pescadores. The barque *Claro Babuyan*, also on its way to Taiwanfoo, after beating about vainly and in much jeopardy for some time, had to put back to port. Unfortunately, the experience proved the last straw to the worthy captain, Mr. Wm. Brown, who, having been ailing for many months, succumbed to a severe attack of bronchitis yesterday, the 9th of July, and was interred in the Kulangsu cemetery at 7 a.m. to-day. He was believed to be about 48 years of age.

The heavy rains have caused the usual floods in many parts of the inland districts and much damage has been done to the ripening crops of rice. This means a further increase of its cost, which is already considerably above what it was two or three years ago. The week before last it was so unusually cold for the time of year that rumour has it there was ice one night, but the idea of ice in the Chinese 6th month seems almost incredible.

I hear that the mandarins are making great efforts to enforce measures for the daily sweeping and cleansing of the Amoy streets, levying a daily charge of ten or twenty cents from the shops and dwelling houses. But Amoy is such an abnormally dirty town that nothing short of a big fire can eradicate the plague, and that is such a heroic measure that it is hardly likely to be adopted. Large numbers of Chinese have come over to Kulangsu to live, and the last few years have seen a great activity in housebuilding, both of native houses and also larger dwellings after foreign style with verandahs and of two storeys. Many old foreign houses are now inhabited by wealthy Chinese from the mainland as well as from Formosa and the Straits.—*N. C. Daily News Correspondent*.

The Hupeh Cotton Cloth Mill and the Cotton Spinning Mill have both suspended work owing to the stock of raw cotton running short. The cotton goods turned out by the mills have been hitherto eagerly sought for, yielding good profits to the manufacturers. In view of the demand for their goods the managers of the two mills have decided to increase the plant, for which they propose to borrow two hundred thousand taels.—*Mercury*.

Mr. Christiansen, third engineer of the *Chowchowfoo*, which arrived at Nagasaki on 22nd July, committed suicide by jumping overboard. The deceased officer was only thirty-one years of age and unmarried, and had been in the service of the company for the last eight years. His loss is greatly regretted, not only by his brother officers but also by a large circle of friends at Nagasaki, who feel deeply the sad occurrence, which terminated a very promising career.—*Nagasaki Daily News*.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 30th July.

Another petition was sent in the other day to the Chief Justice by a few gentlemen requesting permission to re-establish the newspaper *O Independente*. Dr. Alvaro Fornellos, the Chief Justice, declined to give the permission. The petitioners then applied to Senhor Bandeira de Lima, the Colonial Secretary, who is now Acting Governor. This gentleman also declined to give permission: he could not entrench on others' jurisdiction, and moreover the Governor has little to do with the matter.

Why should Dr. Fornellos refuse the permission applied for? The public very well know. If another newspaper was started there would be more criticism of public officers, perhaps even of Dr. Fornellos himself and his friends. In his office are heaps of petitions which have never been dealt with. For instance, the shop of Cassam Moosa, an Indian cloth seller, was attached for debt and was sealed up and closed, by order of the Chief Justice, on the 31st December, 1896; so the matter has since remained, no mention being made of it in court during the seven months which have since elapsed. Everything that can possibly be postponed is postponed and the office pigeon-holes are full of documents waiting to be dealt with.

It is said that a voluminous correspondence has been going on between our Government and the Chinese Authorities with reference to Kongmun and Komchuk and that the matter is now in train for a satisfactory settlement. It is hoped that all the present difficulties in the way of trade will shortly be removed and that steamers will be allowed to call at those ports and land cargo without having first to proceed to Samshui. The sooner the matter is settled the better it will be for both parties. Up to the present there has been no improvement in the trade of this colony from the opening of the river, from which every one anticipated so much, but rather the contrary, because exports from Kongmun and Komchuk that used to come to Macao are now finding their way via Samshui and Canton.

The dredging of the harbour is now going on regularly and it looks as if something substantial would be accomplished.

Invitations have been sent to all the capitalists of the colony to form a syndicate or company to undertake, in agreement with the Government, the great work of reclaiming the ground from Macao to Green Island, and to carry out the plan of Senhor Loureiro, engineer, making docks and workshops on the new ground, and filling in the old docks and filthy puddles of Tarrafeiro and Sakong. This would be a great improvement to the colony.

No doubt we shall soon see as great a transformation at Tarrafeiro and Sakong as at Volong. It is to be hoped the Leal Senado will follow the example of the Government and carry out the required improvements in its jurisdiction, though the prospect does not appear very promising. Almost half the income of the Corporation is paid away in salaries, and private interests are largely considered in the expenditure of the public funds.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Rice is exceptionally high in Canton. A picul of good quality is sold for \$4.30. There is a large demand from Japan and the Straits Settlements and the rice merchants are taking this opportunity to raise the prices. This high rate is a great hardship to poor people. The charitable institutions petitioned the Viceroy some days ago to prohibit the exportation of rice to foreign countries which they say, is the cause of rice being so dear. His Excellency said that the request could not be granted, but he would do his best to send gunboats to other provinces to carry rice back to Canton to give to the rice merchants for sale at low prices. The charitable institutions have again sent another petition to the same effect to the Viceroy saying that the rice conveyed back by the gunboats is a thousand times smaller than the quantity exported and that, if the exportation of rice is not to be prohibited, the greater hardship to the people may be anticipated. The

Government is taking the question into consideration.

The fight, which, as last reported, broke out between San-chuen and Ta-tong villages in Pun-n district, and which had been stopped by the Magistrate of Pun-n, broke out again on the 26th July. Great slaughter has taken place and the Magistrate of Pun-n, who has made several attempts to stop it, but to no purpose, has issued a notification offering rewards for the capture of the chief offenders.

The Provincial Government, under instructions from Peking is instituting an inquiry to ascertain places where the native poppy plant is grown. It is the intention of the Government to impose a tax on poppy plants.

A school for importing education in English is going to open in Wuchow. Two Chinese educated in English have been engaged as teachers. The Prefect of Wuchow has issued a notification inviting people to send their sons as pupils. No pupils are to be admitted if they are unable to write a Chinese essay and their ages must not be under fifteen nor over twenty-five. As the funds are too small to meet the total expenses of the school, the pupils must pay five dollars per annum for stationery, but they are not required to pay school fees or other expenses.

HONGKONG.

The proximity of a typhoon caused heavy rain on Monday and spoiled the Bank holiday, which it was expected would have been observed more generally than usual, as there were no mails arriving or leaving. The sensation of the week has been the Witchell trial, which was concluded yesterday, when the accused, an Inspector of Police, was found guilty of receiving bribes in connection with gambling. The jury recommended him to mercy on account of his previous good conduct and he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment without hard labour.

We have received a further list of Chinese subscriptions to the Diamond Jubilee Fund, bringing the total of the Chinese subscriptions up to \$40,266.44.

The appointment of Sergeant E. D. Sanders to be Captain of the "A" Machine Gun Company of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, vice Captain C. Murray Adamson, resigned, is gazetted.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Hon. A.M. Thomson has been appointed Acting Inspector of Schools and Secretary to the Board of Examiners for a period of two calendar months with effect from the 4th August.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that in pursuance of instructions from the Secretary of state for the Colonies, H. E. the Governor has been pleased to recognise Herr Heinze as general representative of the Imperial German Consul at Hongkong in case of the absence or inability of the latter to perform his duties.

Hock Goon, licensee of the Grand Hotel, was charged on remand at the police court on 28th July with selling adulterated whisky. Mr. J. F. Reece appeared for the defence and raised several technical points. These, however, were overruled by His Worship, who found the offence proved and imposed a fine of \$50.

The trial of Inspector Witchell has so far resulted in two really good jokes being made, the perpetrator in each instance being Mr. E. Robinson, who is conducting the defence. The second one—the reply to Mr. Francis when that gentleman objected to his friend's mode of putting a question—has been published, but the first one was lost to all but a few in court as it was not clearly heard, and therefore it was missed out of our report. We now learn that what took place was this. The Attorney-General's gown had slipped off his back and fallen on to his chair and when he rose to examine a witness the Chief Justice, who is most punctilious in these matters, remarked, "Mr. Attorney, I do not see you." The Attorney-General apologized and explained that the gown had accidentally dropped off. Mr. Robinson immediately replied, "My learned friend has lost his suit, my Lord." While the few who heard the joke laughed Mr. Robinson assisted the Attorney-General in regaining his lost "suit."

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Police Sergeant P. McNab has been appointed an Inspector of Nuisances.

It is with sincere regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. Chalmers, the wife of the Rev. Dr. Chalmers, which occurred late on Friday night. Mrs. Chalmers by her sweet womanliness and ever ready sympathy endeared herself to all who knew her. Hers was a beautiful life, full of grace and beneficence, and her death will be deeply mourned by a large circle of friends. The age of the deceased lady was sixty-nine and she had been married forty-three years, most of which time had been spent in Canton and Hongkong. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, the service being conducted by the Rev. Dr. Henry. There was a large attendance and the coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths sent by sympathising friends.

At the Magistracy on 28th July the owners of three houses were summoned at the instance of Dr. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, for neglecting to have their premises whitewashed. The first defendants were Messrs. Gilman and Co., who were summoned in respect of a house at 46, Stanton Street. Mr. Slade, who represented the firm, said they were agents for the owner, who was in England. The property was leased to Chu Wa, to whom they had let four rows of houses. When the notice was sent in about the lime-washing he (Mr. Slade) sent it to the lessee, and he did not know the work had not been done. It was customary for the lessee to lime-wash the premises. The Magistrate held that, as Messrs. Gilman received rent from the house, they were responsible and inflicted a penalty of \$5. The Procurator of the Spanish Dominican Mission was summoned for a similar offence. These premises were also leased. A similar fine was inflicted. The Secretary of the Land Investment and Agency Co. was also summoned on a similar charge. Dr. Clark stated he had written requesting proceedings to be stopped, as defendant had complied with the order. The Magistrate decided that as the work was not commenced until after the summons was taken out he should inflict a fine of \$5.

A serious riot has lately been brewing in the colony, but happily the police got scent of it in time to prevent it, the result being that nearly sixty coolies were charged at the Magistracy yesterday. Some ill-feeling was engendered between two chair coolies' clubs, and the coolies of one club determined to make an onslaught on the coolies of the other club. Bamboo carrying poles and chair poles cut in half were stored in large numbers in a house in East Street, so that serious business was evidently meant. A start was made on Saturday morning on three of Mr. D. E. Brown's chair coolies, who were walking peacefully along the road when they were assaulted by a gang of coolies of the opposition club. The coolies informed their master, who sent a note to the Police Station. Sergeant Ford, who was on duty at the time, sent out constables and shortly afterwards some of the assailants were arrested. Towards midnight Inspector Kemp entered a house in East Street and found quite a host of coolies on the roof, bamboo poles being in their possession. They were all arrested, while further arrests were made by Inspector Mann, Sergeants Scott and Macdonald, and Sanitary Inspector Cotton. The accommodation in the Police Court was barely sufficient for them all. There were prisoners in front of the dock, prisoners at the back of the dock, prisoners at the right and left of the dock, and prisoners in the dock, and even the Magistrate's elbow room was threatened with invasion. The men were all convicted, various sentences, ranging from fourteen days to six weeks' imprisonment, being imposed.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	3,122,314	2,542,127
Amoy	4,849,374	4,010,387
Foochow	2,548,167	2,809,961
	10,519,855	9,362,475

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	1,827,448	1,778,140
Shanghai and Hankow ...	8,297,052	12,038,408
Foochow	6,551,413	7,789,953
Amoy	119,858	212,670
	16,795,771	21,819,171

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ...	16,893,814	18,603,397

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	15,913,528	12,733,346
Kobe	5,758,740	3,180,870
	21,672,268	15,914,216

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 30th July. (From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London advices to 27th quote a quiet market, Gold Kilns 8/10½, Blue Elephants 9/6. Raw Silk.—Settlements for the week aggregate a fair total, notwithstanding that business generally is disorganized by the uninterrupted fall in exchange. A fair quantity of Silk, which was under offer early in the week, met with buyers. Latterly holders have succeeded in establishing an advance in tael prices, and the market closes firm, as Mexican dollars are at a premium. Tsatlies.—Some 600 bales have been settled; prices have advanced from Tls. 405 to 415 for Gold Kilns, but the laying down cost is slightly in favor of buyers. Taysaams.—The demand for all classes of coarse silk has been strong and well sustained during the interval. Settlements are about 600 bales. Yellow Silks.—Prices are advancing generally; transactions are not large, as the selection now offering is not of the best, and arrivals are only moderate. In our last issue Szechong was inadvertently quoted Tls. 337½ instead of Tls. 237½. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 22nd to 28th July: 2,304 bales White, 311 piculs Yellow, and 154 piculs Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—Some Steam Filatures have changed hands at Tls. 720 for 9/11 deniers 1st choice, and at Tls. 700 for 10/12 2nd choice, also about 100 bales Hand Filatures at quotations. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to Continent 536 bales, to America 767 bales. Waste Silk.—The settlement of 600 piculs of Kading Frisonnets at Tls. 19½ is reported.

Prices calculated by Maertens' Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/6½; Freight Tls. 6.50 per bale:—

	Tls.	Stlg.
Tsatlies.—Black Lion 4	465	10 4
" Bird Chanting	445	9 10½
" Mountain 4	432½	9 7½
" Gold Lion	420	9 4
" Silver Double Elephant	415	9 2½
" Gold Kiling	415	9 2½
" Blue Phoenix	400	8 10½
Hanchow Tsatlies.—Pagoda Tinghow	415	9 2½
Taysaam.—White Kaling Lillyflower 1	430	9 6
" Green Kaling Gold Goose 1	430	9 6
" " " M	420	9 4
" " " MM	402½	8 11½
" 9 by 12 Moss Single Butterfly	412½	9 1½
" " Double	397½	8 10
" " Green Stock 3	382½	8 7½
Chincum.—Tiger Chop Tinghow	415	9 2½
Skeins.—Double Man 3	380	8 6½
" Lucky-Twins 3	377½	8 6
" Blue Monster 1	360	8 1½
" Green Monster 1	357½	8 1
" White Stock 1	332½	7 6
Steam Filatures.—1st Choice 9/1 Deniers	720	13 5½
" 2nd " 10/12	700	13 0
Hand Fil.—Grasshopper 1, 2 & 3, avg. price	500	11 1
Yellow Silk.—Mienchow	360	8 10½
" Meeyang	340½	7 10½
" Fooyung Market 1	321½	7 3
" Szechong	245	5 7½

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	8,435	4,816
Canton	4,011	4,094
Yokohama	415	108
	12,861	9,018

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	1,155	230
Canton	1,676	263
Yokohama	336	99
	3,217	592

CAMPBELL.

HONGKONG, 3rd August.—Owing to accumulating stocks rates are a little weaker. Quotation for Fernosa are nominally \$46.75 to 47.00. Sales, 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 3rd August.—There is no material change to report in the position of this market. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.25 to 7.28 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.70 to 6.72 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.50 to 4.53 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.42 to 4.45 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.12 to 7.15 "
do. " 2, White...	6.65 to 6.67 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.45 to 4.48 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.35 to 4.38 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	10.65 to 10.68 "
Shekloong "	9.57 to 9.60 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Orestes*, sailed on the 29th July. For London:—6,455 boxes tea (128,113 lbs.), 75 cases cigars, 57 cases bristles, 225 packages shells, 50 bales mat bags, 141 bales canes and 17 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—207 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—4 cases cigars and 2 packages sundries. For Hamburg:—6 cases shells. For London from Amoy:—40 packages, 140 boxes, and 40 ½-chests tea.

The P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, sailed on the 29th July. For Glasgow:—1 case cigars from Manila. For Amsterdam:—1 case silk and 1 case clothes. For Manchester:—9 bales waste silk. For London:—1 case cigars from Manila, 1 case feathers, 25 bales raw silks, 2 cases Indian ink, 2 cases private effects, 2 cases blackwood-ware, 3 cases silver ware, 16 cases silk piece goods, 791 boxes tea (16,611 lbs.). For Gibraltar:—1 case curios and 1 case silk piece goods. For France:—883 bales raw silk, 140 boxes tea, 25 packages gall nuts and 4 cases silk piece goods. For Milan:—73 bales raw silk.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 3rd August.—Bengal.—There has been a further fall in prices, New Patna closing at \$705, old Patna at \$772, and New Benares at \$795.

Malwa.—New descriptions have been in good demand and have improved in value, other qualities continuing steady. The following are the latest figures:—

New (this yr's) \$780 with all'ance of ½ to 1 cts.	
" (last yr's) \$800 " 0 to 1 "	
Old (2/5 ") \$820 " 0 to 1½ "	
" (6/9 ") \$850 " ½ to 2 "	
" (10 ") \$870 " ½ to 1 "	

Persian.—Business has been steady and rates have not undergone any change. Current quotations for Oily are \$500 to \$610, and for Paper wrapped \$500 to \$615, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—	
New Patna	2,065 chests.
Old Patna	37 "
New Benares	703 "
Malwa	310 "
Persian	715 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIMUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
July 29	715	770	715	—	780/800	820/870
July 30	715	770	712½	—	780/800	820/870
July 31	711½	770	710	—	780/800	820/870
Aug. 1	711½	770	711½	—	780/800	820/870
Aug. 2	710	770	710	—	780/800	820/870
Aug. 3	705	770	705	—	780/800	820/870

RICE.

HONGKONG, 3rd August.—The advance in prices continues. Quotations are:—
 Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.84 to 2.87
 " Round, good quality.....2.74 to 2.76
 " Long.....2.95 to 3.00
 Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2.....2.75 to 2.80
 " Garden, No. 1.....2.95 to 2.98
 " White.....3.95 to 3.97
 " Fine Cargo.....4.06 to 4.10

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 3rd August.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—80 bales No. 6 at \$8½, 55 bales No. 8 at \$8½ to \$8¾, 680 bales No. 10 at \$8¾ to \$9½, 405 bales No. 12 at \$9½ to \$9¾, 90 bales No. 16 at \$9¾ to \$10½, 500 bales No. 20 at \$10½ to \$110. *Japanese Yarn.*—30 bales No. 16 at \$10½, *Grey Shirtings.*—16 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Lion at \$2.05, to \$2.06, 1,750 pieces Large Eagle at \$2.07, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Three Dogs at \$3.15, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Men at \$2.92, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. B. Joss No. 2 at \$3.05, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.90. *White Shirtings.*—500 pieces No. 300 at \$3.70, 1,000 pieces No. 66,000 at \$5.80 to arrive, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.20, 750 pieces Gold Pheasant at \$3.55, 500 pieces No. 1,000 at \$3.75, 1,000 pieces No. 3 at \$3.57, 500 pieces No. 500 at \$3.59, 500 pieces No. 350 at \$3.10. *T-Cloths.*—2,250 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican S. Lion No. 2 at \$1.90. **METALS.**—Tin—400 slabs Foong Chai at \$36.50. **COTTON PIECE GOODS.**

	per piece	
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.70 to	1.80
7lbs.	2.03 to	2.25
8½ lbs.	2.35 to	3.25
9 to 10 lbs.	3.30 to	4.15
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.35 to	2.55
58 to 60 "	2.70 to	3.30
64 to 66 "	3.30 to	3.90
Fine	4.10 to	7.20
Book-folds.	3.60 to	5.80
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.65 to	1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.50 to	1.70
7lbs. (32 ")	1.90 to	2.15
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.70 to	1.85
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.15 to	2.90
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.35 to	3.25
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 14lbs.	3.75 to	5.10

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.	1.40 to	3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to	4.50
	per yard	
Damasks	0.11 to	0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07 to	0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.10 to	0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17 to	0.20
	per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40 to	0.80

WOOLLENS.

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 1.20
German	1.08 to 1.35
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.32 to 4.70

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.80 to 8.70
Assorted	6.90 to 8.80
Camlets—Assorted.	13.00 to 32.00
Hastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted)	11.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain	3.40 to 4.20
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	5.00 to 10.00

METALS.

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod (Sohier)	3.95 to 4.00
Square, Flat Round Bar	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar	5.80 to —
Small Round Rod	4.10 to —
Hoop	— to —
Old Wire Rope	— to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ...	— to —
Australian	8.00 to 8.00
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	31.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	30.00 to —
Elliott's, 14/20 oz.	29.00 to —
Composition Nails	— to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	— to —
Tiles	— to —
Tin	— to —
	per box
Tin-Plates	6.40 to —
	per cwt. case
Steel	5.75 to —

SUNDRIES

	per picul
Quicksilver	125.00 to —

Window Glass	per box	8.90 to —
	per 10-gal. case	
Kerosene Oil	1.85 to —	

SHANGHAI, 29th July.—(From Messrs. Nosl Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report).—Business that was barely possible when the last mail left has become quite out of the question now, and, but for the few transactions that were practically arranged before, though reported since, the week would have been almost a blank. This last serious decline in sterling rates appears to be so entirely unreasonable that Importers seem to have almost unanimously decided to close their books and wait for further developments. It has certainly been a very grave matter to native holders, especially those of American goods, and has driven a large proportion of them to precipitately settle the Exchange and clear out their stocks. This has caused enormous clearances during the week, and Tientsin merchants, who have been the chief operators, are highly elated at the bargains they have struck. There is very little doubt about it that the Northern merchants have scored heavily this season over the dealers here, the losses of the latter being estimated at Tls. 1,500,000, of which three fourths has been lost over American makes. In spite of this, however, a very extensive business, amounting in fact to some 10,000 bales of these goods, was on the point of going through when the fall in Exchange stopped it, for even at the present low level there are willing operators if rates would only keep steady for a reasonable time. As it is the only forward business we hear of has been in English light Shirtings, other makes being quite impracticable. The Auctions show a substantial improvement in almost every item, as well they might, but there is a rumour that one of them will be suspended next week. The markets in Tientsin and Newchwang are strong and active, but some anxiety is felt regarding the latter owing to the heavy shipments that have gone up recently. It is rumoured that most of this have been financed by the Tientsin merchants. Hankow and Ningpo are both doing a satisfactory business, helped no doubt by the handsome profits being made on Tea.

METALS.—(From Messrs. Alez. Bielfeld & Co's. Report) Shanghai, 30th July:—A comparison of the Import Returns for the half year ending the 30th June with those of the previous half-year and those of the corresponding period last year fully bears out our reports regarding the great falling off there has been, as well as verifying what we have all along said, that the great object in view has been the reduction of stocks. In Metals, with the exception of Lead, Zinc, and Copper, this has been very great, every line of Iron following the same course. At the same time the falling off of re-exports shows that even the interior market have been overstocked, and the import that has taken place may therefore be put down to orders placed before the condition of the market was recognised for the supply for the necessities of the moment.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 3rd August.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 1/10½
 Bank Bills, on demand 1/10½
 Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11
 Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11½
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/11½
 Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/11½

ON PARIS.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 2.40
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.44

ON GERMANY.—
 On demand 194½

ON NEW YORK.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 46½
 Credits, 60 days' sight 47½

ON BOMBAY.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 151½
 Bank, on demand 152

ON CALCUTTA.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 151½
 Bank, on demand 152

ON SHANGHAI.—
 Bank, at sight 75½
 Private, 30 days' sight 76½

ON YOKOHAMA.—
 On demand 3½ pm.

ON MANILA.—
 On demand 1½ pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—
 On demand ½ % pm.
 SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate 10.80
 GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 53.50

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 3rd August.—The market has shown some slight signs of improvement, but has on the whole continued "flat, stale, and unprofitable." The settlements on the 31st passed off without trouble, and at the close the market seems a little steadier and rates inclined to rise.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled quiet and without change at 188 to 189 per cent. prem., with small cash sales at these rates and small forward ones at equivalents. Nationals are out of favour at the reduced rate of \$22.50 without sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders continue to be enquired for at \$77½ without bringing out shares and \$78 would doubtless be paid for small lots. Unions, at the improved rate of \$230, are also unobtainable. Cantons continue on offer at \$180 without finding buyers. The Northern Insurances have changed hands up North at quotations, but have been neglected here. Straits have been quiet with small sales at \$17½.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas are unchanged with small sales and sellers at \$360 and \$107 respectively.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have remained quiet; although a demand at \$34½ cum dividend met with no response, a few unimportant transactions were put through at about equivalent rates on time, viz., \$35 for August and \$35½ for September cum div., and the market closes rather firmer at \$33½ ex-dividend. Indo-Chinas have ruled steady with fair sales at \$50 and \$50½, closing at the latter rate. Douglases continue neglected and with but small business at quotation. China and Manilas have changed hands in small lots at quotation and close steady. China Mutuals are still enquired for in a small way without bringing any shares on the market.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved to \$145, a small demand for settlements failing to bring out any shares; sales have been effected at \$150 for November and \$151 for December, the market closing steady at \$145. Luzons have been the medium of investment at \$47½ and close quiet.

MINING.—The market has ruled exceptionally dull and with but little business, chiefly at declining rates. Punjoms after further small sales at \$7 declined to \$6.50, at which a demand springing up the rate rose to \$6.75 with some sales, and remains steady to strong. New Balmorals have been negotiated in unimportant lots at quotations, and Jebebus have found small buyers at \$2.10 and \$2. Olivers have ruled very quiet with sellers and only small sales at \$20 for A's and \$5½ and \$6 for B's. Raubs with shares freely offering from Singapore in the early part of the week declined further to \$23, after sales at \$23.75 and \$23½; later, however, the demand at \$23 continuing and no shares being forthcoming the rate gradually improved to \$23.75 after fair sales at \$23½. At time of closing the market is steady at \$23.75. Great Easterns are quiet and neglected at quotations and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue more or less neglected with small sales at 240 per cent. prem. and an unsatisfied small demand at 239; a few unimportant transactions have been put through at equivalent rates for October, November, and December. Kowloon Wharves continue quiet with little or no business at quotation. Wanchai Godowns, have found further buyers at \$44½ but more are obtainable at the rate.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain quiet with sales at \$75 and probable sellers. Kowloon Lands have found small buyers at quotation, West Points continue at \$22½ without business, and Humphreys Estates have been the medium of a fair business at \$9.50 and \$9.25, closing with sellers at the former rate.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Electrics have changed hands at \$7½, but continue on offer at that rate. Green Islands have ruled quiet with sellers at

\$37 cum new issue and but few sales. Watsons have found small buyers at \$12.60, and Ropes, Fenwicks, and Ices, in small lots at quotations. Cottons although ruling weak in the early part of the week close firmer, Ewos having changed hands up North at Tls 116, and others at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$360, buyers]
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	188 1/2, prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$22.75, sales
Founders Shares...	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$9, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$145, sal. & buyers
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$6
Ewo Cotton	Tls. 100	Tls. 116, sales & b.
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$28 75, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$41 cum N.I., \$28 ex. N.I., \$13 N.I.
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7.50, sal. & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$113, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$50
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$66
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$171, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	240 p. ct. prem.=
Insurances—		[\$425]
Canton	\$50	\$130, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$106, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$78
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$360, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 187 1/2
Straits	\$20	\$17 1/2, sal. & buyers
Union	\$25	\$230, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$157 1/2, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$75, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9 1/2, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$9
West Point Building	\$40	\$22 1/2, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$47 1/2, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$90
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$5 1/2, sellers
Do. Do.	\$2 1/2	\$2.60, sal. & sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2, sales
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.70, sales & sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.85, sales
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$20, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2 1/2	\$1, sales & buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$6.75, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$2.15
Rauts	13s. 10d.	\$23.75, sales & b.
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18 1/2, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$78, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 10s.
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$66 1/2, sales & buyers
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$33 1/2, ex div. buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$50 1/2, sales & sellers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$44 1/2, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12 60, sal. & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 30th July. (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—A fair amount of business has been done, and we note an advance in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares (caused to some extent by the rise of exchange on Hongkong), and a steady rise in the price of Cotton Mill shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—There is more business in this stock this week to report. Shares changed hands locally at 191 per cent premium for cash and for the 31st current, when the improvement in the rate of exchange on Hongkong caused a demand, and shares were placed at 192 cash and 200 for the 31st December. Yesterday shares were placed to Hongkong at 188 per cent premium, and exchange 74 1/2, equal to 193 1/2 and the usual rate of exchange, 73, but this was not maintained and shares were sold at 192 per cent premium. A sale is reported to-day at 193 per cent premium, and shares were also placed at 187 to Hongkong with exchange 75 1/2, equal to nearly 196 and 73. There is no change in other Bank stocks. Marine Insurance.—Business has been confined to North-China Insurance shares, which changed hands at Tls. 190, and are wanted. Straits shares are wanted at \$17 1/2, but are held for \$18. Fire Insurance shares have also been neglected. In Hongkong there are sellers of

Hongkongs at \$360, and of Chinas at \$107. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares changed hands at Tls. 37 1/2 and Tls. 37. The rate of exchange is in favour of sales to Hongkong, and a sale from Shanghai is reported there at \$49 1/2. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar shares are still offering at Tls. 38, but buyers do not offer more than Tls. 35. China Sugar Refining shares have changed hands at \$146, and Luzon Sugar Refining shares at \$48 1/2. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. are offering at Tls. 210. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares were placed at Tls. 18 1/2 and Shanghai Engineering and Dock shares at Tls. 106. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 127 cash and are wanted for December at Tls. 130. Cash shares were obtainable at Tls. 127. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 86 and Tls. 86 1/2, and more are wanted. Industrial.—Cotton Mill shares have been steadily improving. Ewos were sold at Tls. 112 1/2 to Tls. 115 cash, Internationals at Tls. 117 to Tls. 120 cash, Tls. 120 and Tls. 121 for August, and Tls. 125 for December, and Lapsun-Kung-Mows at Tls. 117 to Tls. 117 1/2 cash, Tls. 118 for August, and Tls. 122 1/2 for December. China, Flour Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 54, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 85. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were sold at Tls. 200 for cash, and Co-operative shares at Tls. 190 for the 31st August. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were dealt in to a limited extent at Tls. 103 cash, Tls. 107 1/2 and Tls. 107 for August, and Tls. 109 for the 31st October. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been offering, and shares were placed for cash at Tls. 550, and for November delivery at Tls. 580. Hall and Holtz shares changed hands at \$41 1/2. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5 per cent Debentures were sold at par, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company's 6 per cent Debentures at Tls. 105, plus the accrued interest in both cases. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$370.00.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£5.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$23.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$20.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$22 1/2.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$77.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 190.00.
Yangtze Insce. Asscn., Ltd.—\$160.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$182 1/2.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$18.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$355.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$106.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$33 1/2.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 37.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$66.
China Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—Tls. 50.00.
China Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—Tls. 22.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 38.00.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$146.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$48 1/2.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 250.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6 1/2.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.85.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$2.25.
Bath Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$26.25.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 210.00.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 18 1/2.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$425.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 127.00.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$67 1/2.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid)—Tls. 86.50.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$77 1/2.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$19.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$10.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 225.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 42.50.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 115.00.
International Cotton Mill Co., Ltd.—Tls. 122.00.
Lapsun-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 117.50.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 600.00.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 125.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 215.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 115.00.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 200.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 305.00.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 103.30.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 550.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 76.00.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$75.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$41.50.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$12.50.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9.00.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$8.00.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 30th July (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—For London, etc., per Conference Lines there is no charge to report, either in rates or in the quantity of cargo going forward. For New York, however, rates of freight, though surely low enough before, have further declined to 20s. per ton of 40 cubic feet, at which rate a vessel, shortly due, is offering to take cargo, *via* Suez, while a fall of 1 cent on tea per Pacific Lines makes their rate 1 1/2 cents gold, a fair quantity going forward at this rate. For New York *via* Cape.—There is very little doing owing possibly to the absence of a loading vessel at this port, and though there is a ship in Hongkong and also in Kobe, there is difficulty in obtaining space for the de-cription of cargo that is offering in very small lots. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 40s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 40s.; New York *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Baltimore *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Konigsberg *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 40s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 37s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 37s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail 16s.; New York *via* Pacific, 1 1/2 gold cents per lb. tea, 3 cents per lb. silk, \$12 per ton strawbraid; New York *via* Suez, 25s. per ton general cargo, 25s. tea; Boston, 32s. 6d. per ton general cargo; Philadelphia, 32s. 6d. per ton general cargo. Coast rates:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.20 per ton coal, nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.10 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe little doing; Newchwang to southern ports little doing; Wuhu to Canton little doing.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Malacca (str.), Benlarig (str.), Java (str.), Thames (str.), Tantalus (str.), Diomed (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Heathbank, Gaelic (str.).
For BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).
For HAMBURG.—Della (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Fortuna (str.), Landseer, Frey (str.), Ghazee (str.), Benalder (str.), Landseer.
For SOUTH AFRICA.—Congella (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Chinglu (str.).
For PORTLAND.—Monmouthshire (str.).
For TACOMA.—Tacoma (str.).
For SEATTLE.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

July—
28, Tritos, German str., from Honcho Bay.
29, Benlmond, British str., from London.
29, Activ, Danish str., from Hongay.
29, Victoria, Swedish str., from K'chinotzu.
29, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Astrol, British str., from Singapore.
29, Braemar, British str., from Tacoma.
29, Niobe, German str., from Foochow.
29, Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
29, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
29, Ancyra, British bark, from Penarth.
29, Clara, Gorman str., from Haiphong.
29, Nerite, British str., from Singapore.
30, Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Swatow.
30, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
30, Glengarry, British str., from Japan.
30, Tancarville, British str., from Kobe.
30, Sierra Nevada, British ship, from Cardiff.
30, Nestor, British str., from Liverpool.
30, Airlie, British str., from Sydney.
30, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
30, Cosmopolit, German str., from Quinhon.
30, Energia, British str., from London.

30, Kashing, British str., from Shanghai.
30, Chusan, German str., from Cebu.
31, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
31, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.

August—

1, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
1, Arratoon Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
1, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
1, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
1, Miike Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
1, Paoting, British str., from Chinkiang.
1, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
1, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
1, Aglaia, German str., for Singapore.
1, Priam, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Amara, British str., from Samarang.
2, Kagashima Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
2, Maria Valerie, Austrian str., from Trieste.
2, Hydaspes, British str., from Bombay.
2, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
2, Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
2, Senta, German str., from Moji.
3, Hinasang, British str., from Samarang.
3, Melbourne, French str., from Shanghai.
3, Saghalien, French str., from Marseilles.
3, Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
3, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
3, Chingwo, British str., from Foochow.
3, Malacca, British str., from Shanghai.

July—

DEPARTURES.

29, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
29, Australian, British str., for Australia.
29, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Independent, German str., for Amoy.
29, Mirzapore, British str., for Europe.
29, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
29, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
30, Orestes, British str., for London.
30, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
30, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
30, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.
30, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
30, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
30, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
30, Nerite, British str., for Kobe.
30, Niobe, German str., for Hamburg.
30, Oscarshol, Norw. str., for Iloilo.
30, Sendai Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
30, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
30, Pique, British cruiser, for Singapore.
31, Tancarville, Brit. str., for Pulo Sembilan.
31, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Mantung.
31, Astrol, British str., for Pulo Sembilan.
31, Energia, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Humber, British storeship, for Nagasaki.
31, Kashing, British str., for Ningpo.
31, Kiangpak, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
31, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
31, Nestor, British str., for Amoy.
31, Pathan, British str., for Kobe.
31, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
31, Tailee, German str., for Iloilo.

August—

1, Activ, Danish str., for Hongay.
1, Airlie, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Benlomond, British str., for Nagasaki.
1, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
1, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
1, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
1, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
2, Chingtu, British str., for Foochow.
2, Paoting, British str., for Canton.
2, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
2, Dante, German str., for Saigon.
2, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
2, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
2, Pronto, German str., for Canton.
3, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
3, Glengarry, British str., for London.
3, Saghalien, French str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Della*, str., from Moji—Messrs. Behr, Tollin, Haslam, Smith, Inouye, and Areke.
Per *Wingsang*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Pollard's Opera Company.
Per *Kashing*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mrs. Glassey and child.
Per *Airlie*, str., from Australia—Capt. W. E. White, Messrs. J. C. Hackell, J. B. Thompson, H. Garcal, Miss Ogleby, Mr. J. Hewell, Dr. A. P. P. Magalhaes, A. Ribeiro, and Padre Nagarell.
Per *Fushun*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. A. F. B. Silva.

Per *Arratoon Apar*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mr. Byron de Winton.

Per *Miike Maru*, str., from Moji—Miss N. Nelson and Mr. Regnaud.

Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports—Mr. Menyon, Mr. and Mrs. Schultze and 2 children, and Mr. Wo.

Per *Aglaia*, str., from Singapore—Mr. Thomson, and 290 Chinese.

Per *Priam*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. Wilson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Bayern*, str., for Shanghai from Bremen—Messrs. L. Arnold and A. Madsen. From Southampton—Messrs. J. Dawson, E. R. Palmer, S. J. Lee, and E. Reese, Mrs. Wilson and 5 children, and Mrs. Richard. From Genoa—Messrs. S. Malinasi, C. Cabella, and N. Castellione.

Per *Hohenzollern*, str., for Yokohama from Bremen—Professor and Mrs. Bahlson. From Southampton—Mr. Lazarus. For Hyogo from Genoa—Mr. Bruno Dieckmann. From Singapore—Mr. Konisi. For Nagasaki from Hongkong—Mrs. Masu.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Messrs. A. L. Dalgetty, T. Nilsen, and T. A. J. Noorbhai. For Penang—Mr. Lam Ho Chong. For Colombo—Lieut. H. A. Logan. For Bombay—Messrs. C. Hassum, E. Ebrahim, D. Arton, and D. R. Kotaval. For London—Mr. H. A. Heydt, Lieut. B. S. Thesiger, and Mr. W. Bidgool. From Yokohama for Singapore—Mr. O. de Glanville. For Colombo—Lieut. A. J. Carter. For Sydney—Mr. H. L. Carnegie. For Brindisi—Messrs. M. Kikuchi, K. Kishi, and S. Hagiwara. For London—Mr. L. M. Segolowitch. From Shanghai for Singapore—Messrs. Van Laer and Webster. For London—Mr. N. Slater and Miss Davidson.

Per *Australian*, str., for Sydney, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Hope Murray, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Fenwick, Miss Wellmann, Mrs. Clegg, and Mr. C. Georg.

Per *Ancona*, str., from Hongkong for Nagasaki—Mr. and Mrs. Fujino. For Yokohama—Mr. Sanervier, Mr. and Mrs. Duff, Miss Douglas, Messrs. A. F. Green, and A. F. Gault, Miss E. N. Gault, and Mr. J. W. Cumming. From Bombay for Yokohama—Mr. N. S. Glazebrook.

SHIPPING IN PORT.

HONGKONG.

STEAMERS.

Aglaia, German steamer, 1,800, Madsen, Aug. 1, Siemesen & Co.
Amara, British steamer, 1,656, Kent, Aug. 2, Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Ask, Danish steamer, 654, H. Hygom, Aug. 1, A. R. Marty.
Arratoon Apar, British str., 1,392, Sundberg, Aug. 1, David Sassoon, Sons & Co.
Disagno, Italian str., 1,499, Mancinini, July 27, Carlowitz & Co.
Braemar, British str., 2,315, Porter, July 29, Dodwell, Carlill & Co.
Chingwo, British str., 2,577, Harris, Aug. 3, Holliday, Wise & Co.
Chusan, German steamer, 624, Wendt, Aug. 1, Siemssen & Co.
City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., 3,159, Ward, July 27, P. M. S. S. Co.
Cluden, British str., 2,035, Anderson, July 28, P. M. S. S. Co.
Cosmopolit, German str., 575, Fetz, July 30, Wieler & Co.
Della, German str., 3,200, Christiansen, July 28, Siemssen & Co.
Else, German steamer, 903, Petersen, Aug. 3, Meyer & Co.
Empress of China, British str., 3,003, Archibald, Aug. 3, C. P. R. Co.
Fatshan, British str., 1,425, J. Dick, H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Canton.
Fushun, Chinese steamer, 1,504, Luut, Aug. 1, C. M. S. N. Co.
Haitan, British steamer, 1,183, Roach, Aug. 1, Douglas Lapraik & Co.
Hankow, British str., 2,235, C. V. Lloyd, Butterfield & Swire, for Canton.
Heungshan, British str., 1,054, W. E. Clarke, H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Macao.
Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., 2,269, Hallstrom, July 31, Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Hinsang, British str., 1,536, Crockett, Aug. 3, Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Honam, British str., 1,344, S. W. Goggin, H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Canton.
Hydaspes, British str., 1,911, Lockyer, Aug. 2, P. & O. S. N. Co.
Kagashima Maru, Jap. str., 2,652, Thomson, Aug. 2, Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Krim, Norwegian str., 1,117, Irgens, Aug. 3, Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Kweiyang, Brit. str., 1,060, Outerbridge, July 26, Butterfield & Swire.
Loosok, British str., 1,015, Jackson, July 28, Butterfield & Swire.
Malacca, British str., 2,615, Pollock, Aug. 3, P. & O. S. N. Co.
Maria Valerie, Aust. str., 2,648, Lene, Aug. 2, Sander & Co.
Meefoo, Chinese str., 1,339, Frigart, Aug. 2, C. M. S. N. Co.
Melbourne, Fr. str., 1,947, Duchateau, Aug. 3, Messageries Maritimes.
Methven Castle, Brit. str., 1,719, Hill, June 25, Dodwell, Carlill & Co.
Miike Maru, Jap. str., 2,053, Going, Aug. 1, Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Monmouthshire, Brit. str., 1,871, Evans, July 27, Shewan, Tomes & Co.
Mount Lebanon, Brit. str., 1,555, McLean, July 18, Dodwell, Carlill & Co.
Paoting, British steamer, 1,100, Gyles, Aug. 1, Butterfield & Swire.
Phra Nang, British str., 1,021, Watton, July 25, Yuen Fat Hong.
Priam, British str., 1,803, Jackson, Aug. 1, Butterfield & Swire.
Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., 598, Sanders, July 28, Arnhold, Karberg & Co.
Senta, German steamer, 2,600, Voss, Aug. 2, Siemssen & Co.
Terrier, Norw. str., 1,008, Wilhelmsen, July 22, Harling, Buschmann & Menzell.
Tritos, German steamer, 1,300, Dinse, July 28, Chinese.
Petrarch, German str., 1,252, Schall, July 29, Wieler & Co.
Pronto, German steamer, 720, Meyer, Aug. 2, Chinese.
Victoria, Swedish str., 989, Hellberg, July 29, M. B. Kaisha.
Wingsang, British str., 1,517, Seller, July 29, Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Woosung, British str., 1,109, Clegg, July 27, Butterfield & Swire.
Wuotan, German str., 1,116, Jacobsen, July 25, Lauts, Wegener & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Ancyra, British bark, 2,198, Morris, July 29, Order.
Gov. Robie, Amr. ship, 1,627, Nichols, July 5, Arnhold, Karberg & Co.
Heathbank, British bark, 1,548, McKechnie, July 6, Standard Oil Co.
Landseer, Amr. ship, 1,348, Stahl, April 12, Dodwell, Carlill & Co.
Lucy A. Nickels, Amr. ship, 1,380, Nickels, May 24, Standard Oil Co.
Serrano, Amr. bark, 613, Waterhouse, July 10, Gibb, Livingston & Co.
Sierra Nevada, British ship, 1,400, Scott, July 30, P. & O. S. N. Co.
Spinaway, British sch., 327, Johnson, July 21, Order.
West York, British bark, 688, Davis, Oct. 18, Order.
Willkommen, Ger. ship, 1,635, Freery, July 17, Carlowitz & Co.

NAGASAKI.

In Port on 24th July, 1897.

Borg, Norwegian str., 738, Jacobsen, July 22, Holme, Ringer & Co.
Chowchowfoo, Ger. str., 796, Buhrman, July 23, Holme, Ringer & Co.
Elisabeth, German barque, 447, Ploger, July 14, Holme, Ringer & Co.
Kitty, British barque, 767, Maher, July 7, Order.
Nanaimo, British barque, 332, Otter, July 6, Holme, Ringer & Co.
Omi Maru, Jap. str., 1,533, Young, July 23, Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
T. Maclellan, British ship, Sim, June 23, Standard Oil Co.
Yiksang, British steamer, 887, Smith, May 1, Browne & Co.

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